D-2464

CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Friday, March 4, 1932

Thorburn Award Commission Makes Known Its Findings

Payment of $5,000, the full amount of the reward offered by The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury [illegible] other than [illegible] the whereabouts of Mr. John Harold Thorburn, 18-year-old British [illegible] who disappeared last spring from [illegible] in Shanghai, has been made to Mr. H. A. Reddie, as decided by the Award Commission of three.

Mr. Reddie, formerly proprietor of a private detective agency in Shanghai, spent more than three months in working on the case, and presented his findings to The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury [illegible] before the Chinese National Government's second Commission of Inquiry made public its discovery that Mr. Thorburn had been shot and killed by Col. Huang, commander of the First Kiangsu Regiment of Gendarmerie at Soochow.

The Chinese government cashiered the officer, placed him on trial, and he received a sentence of 11 years in jail which is now being served. The apologies of the Chinese National Government were tendered to and accepted by the British Government.

The award commission which reviewed all claims for [illegible] in the reward offer [illegible] of Mr. H. Lipson Wa[illegible] Shanghai attorney, Mr. [illegible] Childs Marshall, of the [illegible] of Commerce, and Mr. [illegible] French, of the American Chamber of Commerce.

Although these gentlemen served in an honorary capacity, they gave unstintingly of their time and care in sorting claims and [illegible] evidence, and The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury wishes to take this opportunity to thank them for their assistance for [illegible] so valuable a public service.

Sect 1730.

D.B. (Crime)
Information.

J. H. Givens
O. i/c Sp. Br.
MAR 4 1932

for
File carefully
JHG
5:3:32

COVERING INDEX TO FILE D.2464 - JOHN HAY-THORBURN

Serial No.	S U B J E C T
1	Willian John Hay-Thorburn, 19 years of age, British subject, missing from home, 315 Rue Bourgeat from 8.30 p.m. 31.5.31. Attached: photograph of W.J. Hay-Thorburn.
2	Enquiries re missing John Hay-Thorburn. Shooting of Railway Police by foreigner alleged to be Russian, but suspected to be a British subject, named William John Hay-Thourburn. Reports made by D.I. Ross on 5.6.31, 6.6.31 and 6.6.31. Foreigner arrested for alleged shooting at Weiting. Report made by Supt. Tan Shao Liang on 6.6.31. Report in Chinese Press re shooting of 2 Chinese Military Policemen by an alleged Russian in Quinsan. Report made by D.S.I. Moore on 12.6.31.
3	Two soldiers of the Chinese Military Police, Li Kue Zang and Sung Li Sung admitted to St. Luke's Hospital, suffering from gun-shot wounds. Statement of Sung Li Sung. Death of Li Kue Zang. Report made by Supt. Yorke on 9.6.31 re statement of Sung Li Sung.
4	Report of Officer i/c S.B. forwarding a bullet said to have been extracted from the body of the soldier who was wounded at Quinsan. Report of Arms Identification Section No. 1585 dated 11.6.31 re mentioned bullet.
5	Report submitted by C.D.C. 271 re inquiries regarding the foreigner who was arrested near Weiting and Chen-I. Supplementary statement of C.D.C. 271 Zah Kwei Digh.
6	Arrest of foreigner at Chen-I. Reports made by C.D.I. Robertson on 19.6.31 and 17.6.31. Expenses incurred by C.D.S.I. Pan Lien Peh re arrest of a foreigner at Chen-I. Arrest of foreigner at Quinsan. Report made by D.S.I. Pan Lien Pih.
7	Report by the Shanghai Times on the John Thorburn Case. Report made by D.S. Golder on 23.7.31.
8	Motor car chit, issued by the Taylor Garage bearing the date 3.6.31, purporting to have been signed by W.J. Hay-Thorburn. Report made by D.S.I. Montgomery on 13.7.31. Supplementary statement of Hsu Ah Foo, chauffeur employed with Taylor Garage. Movements of J. Hay-Thorburn prior to his disappearance. Report made by D.I. Ross on 5.8.31.

Serial No.	S U B J E C T
9	Chit signed by W.J. Hay-Thorburn at Pala-ce Hotel, bearing date of June 1, 1931. Report made by D.I. Ross on 8.6.31.
10	Supplementary statement of Hsieh Hsin-fu, regarding the obtaining by him a handbag and articles of clothing from an unknown boat-woman in Henli. Report made by D.I. Ross 7.8.31. Attached: Statements.
11	Newspapers cuttings and translations from Chinese newspapers re disappearance of J. Hay-Thorburn from June 3, 1931.
12	Article contained in the Sin Wan Pao dated August 8, 1931. Report made by C.D.I. Robertson on 8.8.31. Report made by O. i/c S.B. on 5.8.31. re local Soviet circles are in possession of information confirming that J. Thorburn is dead.
13	D.C. Grimble's letter to A.B.M. Consul General re murder case. Oct 27 1931

F. 201
T.H. 1000 8-81.

Sec

CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER

C. & S. B. REGISTRY

FILE No. [illegible]

SUBJECT:

[illegible]

SENT TO

NAME	DATE
CONFIDENTIAL DRAWER	16 - 12 - 21

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1931

THE CASE OF MR. JOHN THORBURN

Full Story of Murder Told in Documents Submitted to the Commons

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Nov. 24.

The following questions and answers in the House of Commons during the week ended November 24 now appear in Hansard. It will be noticed that in reply to a question by Sir B. Falle the Government circulated the full text of the Chinese report on the death of Mr. John Thorburn, which throws a rather different light upon the matter than was given by the telegraphic summary which was issued early in November.

Sir Charles Cayzer asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any claim for compensation from Mr. John Thorburn's relatives has now been received and considered; and what steps he proposes to take to press this claim against the Chinese Government?

Mr. Eden: Mr. Thorburn's father has now requested that His Majesty's Minister should lodge a claim for compensation with the Chinese Government. My right hon. Friend is not yet in receipt of full details, but the request is being considered as urgently as possible.

Sir B. Falle asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will furnish this House with the text of the final reply of the Chinese Government to the representations of His Majesty's Government in the matter of the death of Mr. John Thorburn; and if he will press for an identification of the burial place of the remains of Mr. Thorburn?

Mr. Eden: The text of the reply of the Chinese Government and a summary of the report attached to it, which had been received by telegraph from His Majesty's Minister in China, were published in the Press on November 4. I will circulate in the Official Report the text of the note and the complete report which has now been received. I am in communication with His Majesty's Minister in regard to the matter referred to in the second part of the question.

Hansard then includes the Note from the Chinese Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has already been published in full in these columns, and also the full report of the Chinese investigation, of which only a telegraphic summary was made available at the time of the publication of the Note. The full translation is as follows:—

The Joint Military Court held to inquire into the disappearance of Thorburn, having completed the investigation, its Findings and Judgment are respectfully set out as follows:

The Arrest

(1) At about ten o'clock in the night of June 1, 1931, Sub-Lieutenant P'eng Heng of the Gendarmeria stationed at Quinsan was ordered to lead his men out on patrol along the Shanghai-Nanking Railway line. He sent on ahead as patrols the three Gendarmes Li Kuo-ts'ai, Shen Li-sheng and Wu I-sen. When they had proceeded to the neighbourhood of Cheng I Railway Station, they saw a suspicious looking person walking hurriedly along the railway track. They challenged him and called on him to halt. He paid no attention.

They advanced to investigate and discovered him to be a foreigner. They then interrogated him. The foreigner however made no reply but fired his pistol and shot and wounded the two Gendarmes Li Kuo-ts'ai and Shen Li-sheng. They fell, but Wu I-sen whilst the soldiers behind were coming up courageously advanced and seized him. At this moment the express train from Shanghai to Nanking came by. The soldiers stepped aside and the foreigner wrenched himself loose and escaped.

He dropped a bag containing a pistol and a clip of cartridges, a knife and a cartridge-belt containing nineteen cartridges, a small bottle of chloroform and a gauze face mask, a long black kerchief, one white shirt and a bunch of keys. When this was reported to the Company Headquarters of the Gendarmerie reinforcements were sent out who continued the search and pursuit until dawn of June 2, when Wu I-sen recognised and arrested the foreigner near the eastern end of the Cheng I Railway station buildings. Twenty dollars in Chinese notes were found on him. These, together with the articles found previously, were sent to the Company Headquarters of the Gendarmerie at Quinsan, where the prisoner was questioned. His photograph was taken and in the afternoon of the same day he was conveyed to the Regimental Headquarters at Soochow to be dealt with.

Held by Military

(2) After the said foreigner had been sent to the Regimental Headquarters at Soochow, Colonel Huang Chen-wu himself subjected him to further examination. The foreigner's behaviour was extremely insolent. When asked whether his name was "Sea-scout Troop" he replied, "Yes." Asked his nationality, he replied: "I live at Shanghai. Send me to Shanghai and you will then find out." Asked for his passport, he replied, "None." When shown the bag and its contents and asked whether they were his, he replied "Yes." When asked why he had shot the Gendarmes, he defiantly refused to reply. Because of the report from the Company Headquarters that a brigand had been arrested and because the foreigner had no passport, had carried two pistols, chloroform and a gauze face mask, etcetera, and because he had bought no railway ticket although he had twenty dollars in notes, and because he had been walking hurriedly on the railway track, the Colonel concluded that the man must be a foreign communist desperado. He consequently intended to send him to the Law Courts for trial. But as the wounded Gendarmes Li Kuo-ts'ai and Shen Li-sheng had already been sent to hospital at Shanghai for treatment, Colonel Huang decided to wait until they had somewhat recovered so that he could ascertain clearly the circumstances in which the foreigner had shot them before sending him on for trial. He therefore had the foreigner detained in the Barracks.

Shot by Colonel

Li Kuo-ts'ai died on June 7, and it was reported that there was no hope for Shen Li-sheng (who died later on June 12). Colonel Huang then decided to send the foreigner to trial. He accordingly summoned the foreigner in the morning of June 8 for a further interrogation. The foreigner, however, still refused to state directly who he was. All he would say was that he lived at Shanghai. After much cross-questioning he at last fully confessed that he had shot the Gendarmes. Asked where the revolver was with which he had shot and wounded the Gendarmes, he replied that he had thrown it into the water. After having questioned him thus far, the Colonel, unable to control his indignation, reviled the foreigner and cursed him as an outlaw. Hearing these words, the foreigner suddenly sprang at the Colonel, whom he took by surprise and struck him fiercely. The Colonel, in the face of the fierce aspect and savage strength of the foreigner, drew his pistol and shot him dead.

(3) After he had killed the foreigner Colonel Huang Chen-wu realised that he had exceeded what was justifiable in self-defence, and being afraid of incurring punishment, he caused to be destroyed all traces of the evidence, including the corpse, and gave strict orders to all his men not to divulge a word of what had passed, in the hope of covering up the matter. Thus it came about that the first investigatoin failed to reveal what had actually happened.

Identification Complete

(4) The facts above set out were subsequently elicited by inquiries pursued at the various Company and Regimental Headquarters of the Gendarmerie. Clues were obtained through strict examination of Sub-Lieutenant P'eng Heng and others. Repeated cross-questioning of Sergeant Liu Chang-wen and others at last resulted in eliciting the facts of the case and in the identification beyond doubt of the foreigner in question as the man Thorburn who had disappeared. Colonel Huang Chen-wu was thereupon cashiered and sent to trial. This Ministry constituted a Joint Military Court before which the accused Huang Chen-wu at first denied his guilt, relying on the destruction of the evidence. But when he was later confronted by the evidence collected he made a full confession of the above facts. As regards the point concerning the identification of the foreigner in question as Thorburn, Colonel Huang was shown the photograph of Thorburn communicated by the British authorities when they were pressing for an investigation, and said it was indeed the man whom he had shot and killed. The facts of the case having been clearly ascertained, judgment was passed.

(5) The findings of the Joint Military Court were to the effect that the said Colonel Huang Chen-wu was according to law to be punished for his crime by being sentenced to a term of fourteen years' imprisonment. It is on record that he has already commenced to serve the sentence of imprisonment.

Seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Commissioner of Police,
Sir,
Information
[illegible]
O. i/c Sp. Br.
15:12.31

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1931

Col. Huang Serving His Sentence

NANKING, Dec. 3.—The report that Colonel Huang, who was sentenced by the Chinese authorities to 14 years' imprisonment in connection with the death of Mr. John Thurburn, is being re-tried, was officially denied here to-day.

Colonel Huang, it is stated, is now serving his sentence. —Reuter.

File

Extract from Chinese Newspapers Translation

13.11.31.

The Thorburn Case

The Sin Wan Pao publishes the following telegram from Nanking:-

Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister to China, paid a visit to Li Ching Luen, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs on November 12.

It is reported that during the interview Sir Miles discussed the conclusion of the Thorburn case and the date on which signature will be affixed to the document relating to this case.

Extract from Chinese Newspapers ~~Translation~~

14.11.31.

The Thorburn Case

The China Times and other local newspapers publish the following report:-

According to information received from diplomatic circles, Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister to China, arrived the other day in Nanking from Peiping by a Ford aeroplane in company with Dr. Wellington Koo.

It is learned that Sir Miles Lampson will effect a settlement of the Thorburn case with Dr. Lee Ching Lung, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, and will also exchange views on the continuance of the negotiations over the Sino-British extraterritoriality problem.

It is reported that the interview between Sir Miles Lampson and Dr. Lee Ching Lung will take place after the solution of the Sino-Japanese conflict.

Extract from Chinese Newspapers Translation

11.11.31.

The Thorburn Case

The Sin Wan Pao publishes the following telegram from Peiping:-

Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister to China, will leave Peiping on November 11 for Nanking where he will bring about the settlement of the Thorburn Case with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Another report states that Sir Miles will travel to-day in a Ford aeroplane in company with Dr. Wellington Koo.

(11.)

Extract from Chinese Newspapers Translation

2.11.31.

The Thorburn Case

The editor of the China Times published the following comment on November 1:-

After thorough investigations made by the Chinese Government into the disappearance of Thorburn, it has been found that he left Shanghai for Chenju by train on June 1 and using his pistol, injured two soldiers who succumbed to their injuries. This caused resentment by soldiers on duty there. They caught and sent him to Soochow where he was assaulted and fatally injured. Upon discovery, the Chinese Government arrested and placed the Regimental Commander Wang in custody.

In view of the fact that relations between China dnd Great Britain are closer, we regret the occurrence of this unfortunate case. Although Thorburn was wrong in killing two soldiers, the Chinese soldiers failed to refer Thorburn to their Commander but instead they assaulted and fatally injured him; such acts being a violation of the law. The Chinese Government will certainly inflict severe pubishment on these soldiers. However we hope that both Governments will treat this affair as a usual military and criminal case and will not enlarge it which would simply afford irresponsible persons the chance to provoke instigations.

Extract from Chinese Newspapers Translation

4.11.31.

The Thorburn Case

The Sin Wan Pao publishes the following telegram from Nanking:-

It is reported that after consultation with Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister to China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will bring about a settlement of the Thorburn case immediately Sir Miles receives instructions from his home Government. Apart from punishing the military official concerned, the Chinese Government will probably give compensation to the family of the deceased.

11.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1931

THORBURN CASE CLEARED UP BY CHINESE NOTE

Shanghai Youth Shot Dead by Officer During Interrogation

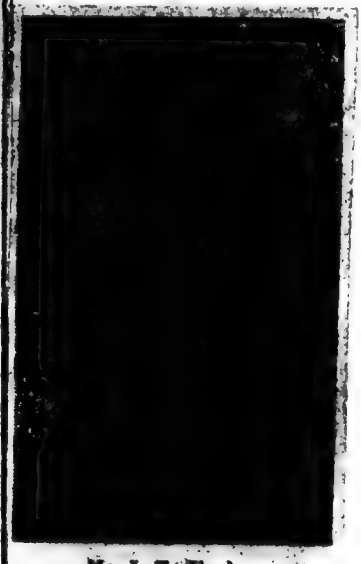
ALL EVIDENCE DESTROYED

14 Years' Imprisonment For Colonel Huang Who Killed Him

THE mystery of the disappearance of Mr. John Hay Thorburn, the Shanghai youth who left Shanghai at the end of May for Nanking, was involved in a shooting affair with Chinese gendarmes at Quinsan, and after his arrest was never seen again, is cleared up in a Note from the Nanking Government to Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister.

The Note, to which is attached a summary of a translation of the report, reveals that Mr. Thorburn shot and fatally wounded two gendarmes and was arrested near Quinsan on June 2. He was subsequently interrogated by the Regimental Commander, Colonel Huang Chen-wu, who "lost his temper and provoked by the behaviour of the prisoner, drew his pistol and shot Thorburn dead." Col. Huang then destroyed all evidence, including disposing of the corpse and ordered his men to keep silent.

Tried by court martial, Col. Huang was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. Nanking has been orally informed that this settlement of the incident is acceptable to H. M. Government.



Mr. J. H. Thorburn.

NANKING EXPRESSES REGRETS

The first document consists of a Note from Mr. Chinglun W. Frank Lee, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Sir Miles Lampson, H. M. Minister to China, dated October 20, in which Mr. Lee states:

Sir:—With reference to the case of the disappearance of Mr. John Hay Thorburn, I have the honour to recall that in June last, based on certain reported facts, concerning the case, an investigation was made at Quinsan and Soochow by the British Consular authorities, and that the result of this investigation was communicated to this Ministry together with certain papers tending to show that Mr. Thorburn was involved in the shooting affair which occurred near Quinsan on the night of June 1, and was arrested by the gendarmes on the morning of June 2 and taken to Soochow on the same day.

When it was known that the inquiry conducted early in July by the representatives of the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs failed to reveal the same facts as found by the British Consular officials, Your Excellency communicated on July 29 to my predecessor, by instruction, a special message from the British Government to the Head of my Government who, as Your Excellency was notified on August 6, immediately ordered General Chen Yi, Vice-Minister of War, to make a thorough investigation of the matter.

Gen. Chen's Investigation

On account of the loss of all direct evidence which caused much difficulty at the initial stage of the investigation, General Chen proceeded with his work with especial care and circumspection, which accounts for the fact that his labours could not have been concluded as early as the Government desired.

On September 25, however, when General Chen's investigation had reached a satisfactory stage, my predecessor was able to inform Your Excellency that the arrest of Mr. Thorburn had been established and that the person involved in the affair had been placed under detention.

I have now received a full report from General Chen Yi, a copy of which is attached to the present note. From this report it is evident that the fears of the British Government as to the fate of Mr. Thorburn have been justified. It is with the utmost regret that the Chinese Government has to inform Your Excellency that Mr. Thorburn, after he had shot and wounded two gendarmes who subsequently died, was arrested near Quinsan on June 2 and met his death at Soochow at the hands of Colonel Huang Chen-wu on June 3. The Chinese Government further regrets that it is now clear from the report that Colonel Huang Chen-wu sought to suppress the truth as to what had occurred even from the Government itself.

File
5.11.31

Why He was Not Handed Over

It may be recalled that the shooting affair near Quinsan occurred just at the time when the general menace of subversive activities in this country was at its height and when orders had been given to the gendarmerie to keep vigilance on all suspects in the regions traversed by the Nanking-Shanghai Railway. It was in these circumstances that Mr. Thorburn was arrested after the shooting incident and taken to Soochow. His own violent conduct, the strange articles found among his belongings, and his refusal to reveal his name and nationality, inevitably produced the suspicion that he was bent on some activity dangerous to the safety of the State. It was therefore owing to this state of apprehension and to the initial absence of any means of establishing Mr. Thorburn's identity that he was not handed over to the British authorities after his arrest.

As the report shows, a sentence of imprisonment for fourteen years has been imposed upon Colonel Huang Chen-wu as a result of a trial by court-martial, and I wish to add that the Chinese Government has caused the verdict to be communicated to all the military commanders.

The Chinese Government feels thankful for the help afforded by the British officials in supplying all the evidence at their disposal thereby contributing in no small degree to the eventual elucidation of what had occurred.

In conclusion, I wish to re-affirm the determination of the Chinese Government to uphold the modern conception of justice and see it administered within the Chinese territory and hope that the action taken by the Chinese Government in this case will convince the British Government of the sincerity of China's professions in the matter.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Summary of Report

Accompanying the Note is a summary of the report, which reads: "On the night of June 1 three gendarmes patrolling the line met and challenged a suspicious character hurrying along the railway track. As the foreigner disregarded their challenge, they approached to investigate, whereupon the foreigner shot down two of the gendarmes. At this moment the express passed and the foreigner escaped. He dropped a bag containing a pistol and cartridges, a knife, a small bottle of chloroform and gauze face cover, and other articles. He was arrested next day and taken to Soochow where he was examined by the Regimental Commander Colonel Huang. He refused to say who he was except that he came from Shanghai, had no passport, admitted the bag was his, and refused to give any reasons for shooting the gendarmes. Colonel Huang in view of suspicious circumstances believed prisoner to be a foreign communist and intended sending him to the law courts. He desired, however, to await the recovery and evidence of the wounded gendarmes first. On June 7, Colonel Huang learned that one of the wounded men had died and that the other could not recover. He accordingly interrogated Thorburn again on June 8. In the course of this further interrogation Colonel Huang lost his temper and provoked by the behaviour of the prisoner, drew his pistol and shot Thorburn dead. Colonel Huang then realising what he had done, destroyed all evidence, including the corpse, and ordered his men not to divulge anything. In this way the first investigation failed. Subsequently the true facts were elicited from subordinate officers. Colonel Huang was arrested, brought to trial by court-martial and sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment."

The Nanking Government has been orally informed that this settlement of the incident is acceptable to H. M. Government."

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Monday, November 2, 1931

Nanking Seeking Source Of Post's Thorburn Report

Semi-Official Inquiry Gets Under Way In Capital

LONDON SATISFIED WITH NEW FINDINGS

Satisfactory Basis Now Reached For Final Settlement

(Post Special Service)

NANKING, Nov. 2.—A semi-official investigation was begun here today to determine how news of the contents of the Chinese Government's note to Great Britain on the Thorburn case became available to The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury in advance of any official release by either government.

Meanwhile, although there has been no denial by either government that The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury's report was correct, the utmost secrecy regarding the full version of the note still in maintained.

File

11

THE SHANGHAI MERCURY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1931

Strong London Comment On Thorburn Case And "Extrality" Surrender

Lord Lloyd Says That Protection Of Consular Jurisdiction Should Not Be Abolished Until Parliament Has Approved

"NEWS CHRONICLE" POINTS OUT HOW CHINA ENDANGERS HER CAUSE

LONDON, Oct. 31.—The newspapers to-day again give prominence to the Thorburn case and there is very pungent criticism of what is regarded as the inability of the Chinese Government to maintain law and order. In a letter to the "Times," Lord Lloyd, the former High Commissioner of Egypt and the Sudan, referring to the agreement which it is understood Sir Miles Lampson negotiated with Dr. C. T. Wang, the former Chinese Foreign Minister, cites the Thorburn case as a reason why extrateritoriality rights should not be abolished, at any rate until Parliament has been given an opportunity to review the whole question.

The comments of the papers on the Thorburn case are based upon the Chinese report of the official investigation into Thorburn's disappearance. It is understood that this report states that Thorburn, when halted by troops in Soochow, drew his revolver and shot two soldiers. He was then over-powered and after being paraded through the streets of Soochow was killed. The disposition of the body, it is [illegible] remains a mystery.

"Inexplicable Murder"

The "News Chronicle" states that the "astounding feature of the inexplicable murder is not merely that such an outrage should be possible, but that it is so difficult to suggest any really adequate measures for the protection of the lives of British nationals against such outrages.

"We must then be prepared for," [illegible] the paper, "in short, Chinese [illegible], with the [illegible] from [illegible] before their eyes, will [illegible] in time the peril in which [illegible] endanger their cause [illegible] enough to make [illegible]."

Lord Lloyd states the general understanding that Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister to China, has recently negotiated a treaty with the Chinese Foreign Minister under which Britishers will be finally deprived of the protection of Consular Jurisdiction.

He declares it to be the unanimous opinion and the urgent plea of British communities in China that no such treaty should be concluded until its conditions have been submitted to, and approved by Parliament.

A Remote Prospect

Lord Lloyd, in support of his contention, quotes the Thorburn case and says the prospect of any stable and effective Central Government being established in China is extremely remote."

He also attributes the difficulties with Japan to the absence of a Government in China which is able to maintain order and protect the interests of foreigners and, finally, points to the fact that the Foreign Minister, with whom Sir Miles Lampson has been negotiating in Nanking, has now resigned from the Central Government Cabinet.

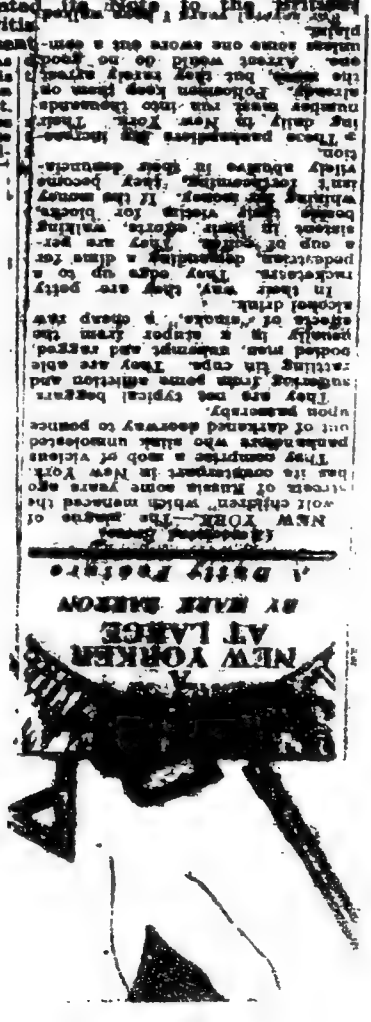
John Thorburn's Death Confirmed In Nanking Note To Great Britain

Chinese Authorities Admit Correctness Of Original Report That British Youth Was Done To Death And Body Destroyed

BRITISH AUTHORITIES HERE DECLINE TO ISSUE ANY STATEMENT

According to messages from Nanking and London received here yesterday, the National Government, in a Note to the British Government, confirms the killing of John Thorburn by Chinese soldiers in the vicinity of Soochow on June 2 and the disposal of the body. The report of the findings of the commission which investigated the mysterious disappearance of the 19-year-old British youth have been awaited for many weeks, but it was known shortly after his disappearance that Thorburn was dead. Confirmation of the stack of evidence adduced to prove his murder was not forthcoming until the National Government presented the Note to the British Minister to China. Local British [illegible] declined to make any statement.

The full text of the note has not yet been made public and it is understood that this publication rests with the British Government. According to well-informed circles locally, the Note says that the Chinese military officials and sol-



NEW YORK—The memoirs of "wolf children" which memorized the streets of Russia some years ago has its counterpart in New York. They comprise a mob of vicious pickpockets who slink unnoticed out of darkened doorway to pounce upon passersby.

They are not typical beggars suggesting from some affection and rattling tin cups. They are able bodied men, exempt and retired, usually in a stupor from the effects of "smoke," a cheap raw alcohol drink.

In their way, they are pretty mackerelers. They ooze up to a pedestrian, demanding a dime for a cup of coffee. They are persistent in their efforts, walking beside their victim for blocks, whining for money. If the money isn't forthcoming, they become vilely abusive in their denunciation.

These panhandlers are increasing daily in New York. Their number would run into thousands already. Policemen keep them on the move, but they rarely arrest one. Arrest would do no good, unless some one swore out a complaint.

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, FRIDAY, OCTOBER [illegible], 1931

[illegible]

Completion

BASIS AFFORDED FOR A SETTLEMENT?

LONDON, Oct. [illegible].—The negotiations which have been proceeding for some time between the British and Chinese Governments with reference of the fate of Mr. John Thorburn, a British subject, are approaching completion. Reuter's Agency learns that the Foreign Office has received a dispatch from Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister in China, which is understood to afford a basis for the settlement of the affair.—Reuter

2562

2464/31.
29. 10. 31.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1931

THE THORBURN CASE

Chinese Reply Received in London

OFFICIAL RETICENCE

"A Considerable Advance" but—

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Oct. 26.

I am informed that the tenor of the reply of the Chinese Government to the British Government's demands for a further Report on the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, as the result of the second investigation ordered by General Chiang Kai-shek, has been communicated to the Foreign Office here. The nature of the proposals has not been disclosed and officials are very reticent on the subject. Although the reply, in certain material respects, represents a considerable advance on the Chinese Government's original attitude, there appear to be questions of vital importance to be settled before it can be considered that a satisfactory outcome has been reached. This seems to account for the guarded view taken in Whitehall.

History of the Case

The following is a chronological record of the history of the case:—

June 1. Mr. John Thorburn left Shanghai in search of adventure.

June 2. Believed to have been arrested by Chinese gendarmes.

June 3. Reported in the Chinese press that a foreigner challenged on the railway line near Weiting, on the night of June 1, fired and wounded two soldiers, making good his escape. He was arrested on the following morning and sent to Soochow under escort.

June 8. Mr. A. L. Scott, of the British Consulate, visited Soochow to make enquiries regarding Mr. Thorburn's disappearance.

June 10. Last credible evidence of Mr. Thorburn's having been seen alive.

July 16. Official report by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to British Government disclaiming all knowledge of Mr. Thorburn or the arrest of any foreigner.

July 21. Meeting of the China Association passes a resolution urging the British Government to adopt measures to secure exhaustive investigation.

Telegram with 2,300 signatures of Shanghai residents despatched to London demanding suitable action in the case.

July 23. Mr. Shang, the original investigator appointed by the Chinese Government into the case died as the result of a rickshaw accident.

July 25. Mr. Henderson instructs Sir Miles Lampson to take the case to General Chiang Kai-shek.

July 28. Sir Miles Lampson arrives in Nanking by aeroplane.

August 10. The "North-China Daily News" announces that General Chiang Kai-shek, as the result of Sir Miles Lampson's representations, has, in the most emphatic language, ordered a new enquiry.

August 12. General Chen Yih arrives at Soochow to conduct a new enquiry, which is expected to be completed in less than a fortnight.

August 14. Reported by Reuter from Nanking that General Chen Yih's enquiry will threw no further light on the case.

August 18. "North-China Daily News" receives semi-official reports from Nanking to the effect that the enquiry is not completed.

August 19. "North-China Daily News" receives news that General Chen Yih has returned to Soochow to follow up a new clue.

August 19. "North-China Daily News" announces the receipt of reports from Nanking to the effect that General Chen Yih had returned from Soochow and was preparing his report.

September 7. "North-China Daily News" records a statement from Chinese sources to the effect that the enquiry would be speeded up and that General Chiang Kai-shek was alive to the importance of an early announcement.

October 14. Sir Miles Lampson arrives in Nanking by Air.

October 20. "North-China Daily News" points out the necessity to remove resentment caused by delay in the Chinese Government's handling of the Thorburn case.

Registry
Attach to Thorburn file
MR. 28/10

2532

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Monday, October 19, 1931

THE THORBURN CASE AFTER 141 DAYS

By R. G. W. [illegible], C.B.E.

THE British Minister is once more in Nanking. And though it seems probable that the immediate object of his visit is to keep in touch with the Chinese Government during the Sino-Japanese crisis, it is to be hoped that he will also have instructions to press for a report upon the Thorburn case.

It is now 141 days since the young Briton, John Hay Thorburn, disappeared. He was last seen in the hands of the Chinese military at Quinsan and Soochow, and the evidence that has since been obtained from various source leaves little doubt that he was done to death by his captors.

A demand for an investigation was made by the British Authorities, as soon as what in their opinion, was conclusive evidence that he had been arrested by the Chinese military had been obtained. And on July 19, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs transmitted to the British Minister a Report compiled by representatives of the Ministry of War and the Waichiaopu, which denied that the young Briton had ever been in the hands of the military, and quoted several of the witnesses who had been questioned by a British Consular Officer as saying exactly the opposite to what they told him.

* * *

Local Indignation

NOT unnaturally this brazen attempt to evade the issue aroused intense indignation among the British communities in China. The China Association, British Patriotic Societies and individual Britons took up the matter, and [illegible] strong protests to London, with the result that Sir Miles Lampson was instructed to proceed to Nanking as soon as possible, and to take up the matter in person with General Chiang Kai-shek.

Reg.
Please file
21:10:31.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1931

CHINA QUESTIONS IN COMMONS

Thorburn Case Produces Another Query

NO CHANGE REPORTED ON EXTRALITY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Sept 15.

The following questions were asked in the House this week:

6. Mr. Wardlaw-Milne asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any further action has been taken by His Majesty's Minister in China in connection with the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn; and, if so, with what result?

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Captain Eden): His Majesty's Minister has not reported any action subsequent to that described in my reply to the hon. Member for Chester (Sir C. Cayzer) on Thursday last.

Extraterritoriality

7. Mr. Wardlaw-Milne asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the present position of the extraterritoriality negotiations being carried on with the Chinese Government?

Captain Eden: As stated in the answer returned in this House on June 17 last, the negotiations have reached a stage which enables them to be reported to their respective Governments. Owing to the political conditions in China, there has been no change in the position since that date.

Mr. Wardlaw-Milne: Are we to understand that negotiations have, in fact, been interrupted and no date has been fixed for their resumption? If not, is not that desirable in view of the Thorburn case and other cases of a similar kind, which appear to make it undesirable to go on with these negotiations?

Captain Eden: The position is that neither Government has yet completed its examination of the position reached in the negotiations.

File
7.10.31

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1921.

[illegible]

Under Secretary [illegible]

[illegible]

REPORT EXPECTED AT END OF MONTH

LONDON, Sept. 14.—Replying to a question in connection with the Thorburn case in the House of Commons to-day, Captain R. A. Eden, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stated that neither the British nor the Chinese Government had completed their examination of the position reached in the negotiations.

He added that the Minister to China had not reported any action subsequent to that described in the statement he made last Thursday, when he informed the House that the inquiry had not been completed, adding, the Chinese Government had reported it was progressing satisfactorily and that its report could be expected before the end of the current month.

Sir Miles Lampson, he continued, had pressed the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs for the report at the earliest possible moment and made known his disappointment at the delay of the Chinese authorities in furnishing it.

John Thorburn, a 19-year-old resident of Shanghai, disappeared on June 2 and has not since been heard of.—Reuter.

Registry
attach to file
H.R. 17/9

Registry

September 2, 1931. Morning Translations.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEWS ABOUT THE THORBURN CASE

The Shanghai Nippo publishes the following report:-

Seochow, August 31.

Details to file.

According to a reliable source, the following truthful statement regarding the Thorburn case has been received. At midnight on June 1, two Chinese gendarmes, who were on sentry duty in the vicinity of Tsing Kyi Railway station guarding the line, observed a suspicious looking European when they questioned. Thorburn shot both these gendarmes and made good his escape under cover of the darkness. A thorough search for the culprit was instituted by the Chinese authorities. Mr. Thorburn was arrested and taken to the gendarmerie headquarters of the First Corps at Seochow. The gendarmerie authorities suspected Thorburn to be a communist attempting to damage the railway line as he had left near the track certain instruments such as monkey wrench, screw drivers etc. Judging from the prisoners clothing and language it was apparent that he was an Englishman, but they tried to force Mr. Thorburn to admit that he was a communist, finally torturing him by stringing him up because he refused to admit the allegation. Mr. Thorburn fainted due to loss of blood from injuries. The following day the Chief of the Gendarmerie Corps who was absent returned to headquarters and was informed regarding Thorburn case. He scolded the officers who conducted the case. ~~but Mr. Thorburn~~ ~~he~~ was afterward shot and incinerated in order to destroy all proof because the gendarmerie authorities feared serious trouble would arise should Thorburn be set free. The gendarmerie authorities also ordered all the Chinese newspaper men not to publish a word about the matter and forced some of them who had already published certain parts of the incident to contradict their statements. However there was a certain newspaper reporter who witnessed Thorburn being tortured. He can not divulge the particulars because of the existing relations between Britain and China. It is expected however that the persons responsible for Thorburn's death will be punished in accordance with law. It is also reported that Mr. Chen Kyi, who was commissioned to investigate the matter, submitted his report to General Chiang giving the true fact of the case and has asked instruction how to deal with the matter in a proper manner.

KOREAN SUPPRESSED

The Shanghai Nichi-Nichi publishes the following report:-

A Korean named Kim De Man, aged 27, residing at No. 25 East Juhong Road, Chapei, was arrested by the Japanese Consular authorities on September 1, for violating the deportation order of the Japanese Consular Police and conducting a brothel. He was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment at the Japanese Police Court.

JAPANESE SUPPRESSED

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1931

NOTES & COMMENTS

The Thorburn Case

The statement that the Chinese Government expect to be able to issue a "satisfactory" report on the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn and to submit it to Sir Miles Lampson before the end of the current month, is elicited from the new Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons. It shows that the process of speeding up the report of General Chen Yih has not been as effective as was recently suggested from Nanking. It means, presumably that, in the course of the next fortnight the document will be available for the British Government. Of its character it is impossible to say anything in advance at this stage. There was, it will be remembered, an apparently authoritative suggestion that it left matters where they were. This was, however, promptly denied by other equally authoritative statements, which went so far as to hint that material evidence of value had been obtained, leading to General Chen Yih's second visit to Soochow. It seems to be essential that, after this long delay, some substantial result should accure in response to the British Government's urgent inquiries. The matter may be left there for the moment.

Registry
Attach to file
NR. 15/9

2348

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1931

QUESTIONS ASKED ON THORBURN CASE

Briton's Disappearance Remains Unexplained By Chinese

VEXATIOUS DELAY IN OFFICIAL REPORT

LONDON, Sept. 10.—The question of the disappearance of John Thorburn was again raised in the House of Commons to-day by Sir Charles Cayzer, Conservative member for the City of Chester, who asked whether the additional inquiry ordered by General Chiang Kai-shek had brought to light any fresh information as to the fate or whereabouts of the missing Englishman.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Captain R. A. Eden, replied that the inquiry had not yet been completed. The Chinese Government had reported that it was progressing satisfactorily and that its report could be expected before the end of the current month.

Sir Miles Lampson, he continued, had pressed the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs for the report at the earliest moment and had made known his disappointment at the delay of the Chinese authorities in furnishing it.—Reuter.

Form No. 2
11,000-1-31

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

14.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 24654/31.
Date 7.9.31 Station,

Date September 5, 1931

Subject (in full) The Thorburn Case.

Made by J.D.S. Umemoto. Forwarded by D.B. Ley Sr.

With reference to the attached translation from the Shanghai Nippo of September 2, 1931 regarding the Thorburn Case, Mr. Akahoshi, editor of the Shanghai Nippo, was visited with the object of confirming the report published in the paper.

The editor stated as follows:-

"The report was a copy of a report made by a certain government official, therefore, he believes it to be a correct one regarding the Thorburn Case."

He declined to disclose the name of this official or discuss the matter.

J. D. S. Umemoto.
J. D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

D. C. Crime,

The report published in the Shanghai Nippo re Thorburn seems to me to be an exaggerated account of what was published in the North China Daily News.

NR. 5/9.

Regy. file
NR. 7/9

NR 5/9

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, 3/9. 193

To S. 2 (cc. Hatagawa or J.D.S. Umemoto)

For inquiry and report as to the source of the information contained in the attached and the truth of it.

A.K. 3/9

J.D.S. Umemoto.
Report please.
SDR 3/9.

Extract from the Morning Translation of September 2, 1931.

TRUTH ABOUT THE THORBURN CASE

The Shanghai Nippo publishes the following report :-

Soochow, August 31.

According to a reliable source, the following truthful statement regarding the Thorburn case has been received. At midnight on June 1, two Chinese gendarmes, who were on sentry duty in the vicinity of Tsing Nyi Railway station guarding the line, observed a suspicious looking European whom they questioned. Thorburn shot both these gendarmes and made good his escape under cover of the darkness. A thorough search for the culprit was instituted by the Chinese authorities. Mr. Thorburn was arrested and taken to the gendarmerie headquarters of the First Corps at Soochow. The gendarmerie authorities suspected Thorburn to be a communist attempting to damage the railway line as he had left near the track certain instruments such as monkey wrench, screw drivers etc. Judging from the prisoners clothing and language it was apparent that he was an Englishman, but they tried to force Mr. Thorburn to admit that he was a communist, finally torturing him by stringing him up because he refused to admit the allegation. Mr. Thorburn fainted due to loss of blood from injuries. The following day the Chief of the Gendarmerie Corps who was absent returned to headquarters and was informed regarding Thorburn case. He scolded the officers who conducted the case. Thorburn was afterward shot and incinerated in order to destroy all proof because the gendarmerie authorities feared serious trouble would arise should Thorburn be set free. The gendarmerie authorities also ordered all the Chinese newspaper men not to publish a word about the matter and forced some of them who had already published certain parts of the incident to contradict their statements. However there was a certain newspaper reporter who witnessed Thorburn being tortured. He can not divulge the particulars because of the existing relations between Britain and China. It is expected however that the persons responsible for Thorburn's death will be punished in accordance with law. It is also reported that Mr. Chen Nyi, who was commissioned to investigate the matter, submitted his report to General Chiang giving the true facts of the case and has asked instruction how to deal with the matter in a proper manner.

Extract from the Morning Translation of September 2, 1931.

TRUTH ABOUT THE THORBURN CASE

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Soochow, August 31.

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August 30, 1931. Afternoon Translation

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Shen Pao publishes the following telegram from Nanking:-

In connection with Tientsin's disappearance, the British authorities have sent a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the result of their findings:-

(1) A member of the Chinese Military Police, surnamed Hsieh, stated that on June 8 he saw a foreigner arrested after a shooting affray with a foreign youth near Kalgan.

(2) A certain tailor of Kalgan described the arrest of a foreign youth whose features resemble those of Tientsin whose photo was shown to him by the British investigators.

(3) A military policeman at Kalgan Station declared that in the afternoon of June 8 he saw a foreigner travelling to Sochow by train. Another policeman stated that the said foreigner declared himself to be a British subject.

In addition to the foregoing, there are other proofs such as remnants of his neck, cuff, etc. having been cut off.

On the day in question at Kalgan, 20 miles distant from Changpei, the Chinese Military Police were engaged in a gun fight with a foreigner, resulting in the death and wounding of both Chinese soldiers and the subsequent arrest of the foreigner.

Extract for file 19/8

Inf.

D. 2464

[redacted]

Extract for file. 8.8.31 HR

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

D. [illegible]

August 9, 1933. Nanking Translation

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Chinese Times reporting:

In connection with the disappearance of a British subject named Thorburn and the publishing of yesterday's Nanking telegram to the effect that Thorburn's dead body had been found in Soochow, a reporter of the Far Eastern News agency yesterday called on Mr. Yang Chun Tung, Chief of the Municipal Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, inquiring the truth of the reports. In reply Mr. Yang solemnly declared that the news was entirely groundless. He has also requested Mr. Yu Tung, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to send a wire to the Nanking Ministry directing it to disclose the source of this telegram.

Extract for [illegible]

The Chinese Times published the following letter from the Municipal Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:-

We were greatly surprised to read a telegram from Nanking published in your paper of August 8 that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in receipt of a report from the Municipal Office to the effect that the dead body of a missing British subject named Thorburn had been found in Soochow. In this connection, we have to state that this office has received no such reporting this case nor had it forwarded any report to the Ministry. We therefore request you to publish a correction in order to avoid misunderstandings.

Extract for file

MR.
1.8.39.

[redacted]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & D. REGISTRY
No. S. D. D.2464
Date 30. 7. 31.

Extract for file

McR.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[redacted]

The Chinese Times published the following report on July 30:-

[redacted]

Extract for file.

[redacted]

The Chinese Times published the following account on July 30:-

[redacted]

Extract for file

[redacted]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 2464.
Date 30.7.31.

Extract for file

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

!!!

[illegible]

July 24, 1922. Afternoon Translation

MISCELLANEOUS

The foregoing correspondent says that the life of a foreigner is valued as compared with that of Chinese. When a foreigner disappears in China, there are certain people who demand very before it has even been established whether he is still alive or dead. On the other hand, when Chinese are actually killed and shot by foreigners and definite proofs are obtained, the foreigners think such as count as a matter of no consequence.

There is justice and there is international precedent. Only one difference exists in this world namely the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor. There is no such thing as conscience, faith, shame, humanity, right. If we there is talk of rights, one must fight of all possess sufficient power to support the talk.

As above

At the present moment, when the Sino-Japanese negotiations are hovering, unless, the case of Tsuchiya's disappearance serves us with a good example with which to judge others. It is still a matter of doubt whether Tsuchiya is dead or alive. Regarding him to be dead, then his life cannot be considered of more value than that of the general hundreds of Chinese murdered in Korea regarding which there is abundant proof. Notwithstanding this, the indignation of Chinese is not to be compared with that displayed by the Britishers over Tsuchiya's disappearance. Why is it that the life of Chinese is held as lightly?

[redacted]

Extract for file

MR.

[redacted]

THE THORBURN CASE.

Extract for file

The "Minchung" publishes the following report:- With reference to the disappearance of the British subject, Thorburn, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had given its reply to the British Consul on the result of investigations jointly conducted by officials commissioned by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and War. The reply stated "No foreigner was ever arrested or detained by Chinese soldiers."

The local British residents are making a great deal of this little incident and are using it as a plea to retain the existence of extraterriteriality. Mr. Emery, manager of the "Ai Ko Tak" Company, proposes to dispatch a telegram informing the London press of a petition signed by local British residents regarding the Thorburn case. The Shanghai Branch

INR.

July 29, 1931. Morning Transcription

MANDARINES

THE CHINESE INCIDENT - A SUGGESTION.

The China Times published the following article:-

In connection with Thorburn's disappearance, a letter written by a Chinese Mr. Chen appeared in a certain foreign evening newspaper on July 23 giving an incident which affected the Chinese in Australia some years ago. The following is the gist of the letter:-

"Two Chinese, brothers, named Ah Tong and Ah Gen respectively, returned to Australia from China where they had been attending schools. Although they were born in Australia, they were refused entry by the Australian authorities who were not anxious at that time to have any more Chinese in Australia. In spite of their being in possession of birth certificates and passports, both brothers were forcibly detained and thrown in a dirty prison at Port Darwin.

"They were subsequently released pending the decision of the High Court of Australia, but immediately they regained their freedom, they were again arrested by British troops and removed to another place. While passing a bank, they unhesitatingly crossed the anger of the British soldiers and were driven into the bank where Ah Tong died from the intense heat.

"Ah Gen survived. Fortunately some days later he managed to effect his escape. He then reported the affair to the resident Chinese overseas organisation who raised a hue and cry which continued for several months, but the Australian Government made no reply on the side of lack of evidence. Finally the Australian authorities formally tendered an apology to the Chinese Government with advice to "Forget it". This unfortunate affair was eventually dropped.

"Death is terrible to both Chinese and foreigners. Supposing Thorburn were actually killed by the Chinese, is it not a similar case to that of Ah Tong? Did for not to fling therefore the Britishers had better "Forget it".

If the authorities would but calmly think the matter over after reading Mr. Chen's letter, the Thorburn case would soon collapse. I wish, however, to inform Mr. Chen that the life of a foreigner is considered to be of more value than that of Chinese. Several decades ago, in the year King Ts of the Tsing dynasty, the murder of a Japanese Legation secretary resulted in war declared by 8 allied Powers. There are always old grievances to guide for foreigners when Chinese are affected, but Chinese dispute of nothing generally.

At the present time when China is still sound asleep, Mr. Chen's letter will have no effect.

Extract for file

Extract for file
29.7.31.

[redacted]

The following report appears in the China Times and other local newspapers:

Consequent upon the receipt of instructions from the British Government, Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister in China, has in spending his summer holiday at Peitaho, and was in keeping to call in Nanking Generalissimo to discuss a strong Sino-British Indo Chinese's disagreement.

The local British Consulate-General has received a wire from Sir Miles Lampson at Peitaho stating that he will arrive at Nanking on Friday the 1st inst.

S.B. Regy

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. D. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 2414/11. 2264
Date 14. 8. 31.

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Extract for Thorburn file

M.R.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Extract for file

mk

[redacted]

2144
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 2464/11
Date 22.8.31.

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1931

[illegible]

Note Sent To Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

[illegible]

A [illegible]

1.—A soldier of the Chinese [illegible] after a shooting affray with a foreign youth at Quinsan.

2.—A certain woman of Quinsan described the arrest of a foreign youth whose features resemble those of Thorburn whose photo was shown to her by the British investigator (Mr. A. L. Scott?)

3.—A railway policeman at Quinsan station declared that in the afternoon of June 2 he saw a foreigner travelling to Soochow by train, while another policeman stated that the said foreigner declared himself to be a British subject.

On the day in question at Quinsan, 36 miles from Shanghai, two Chinese military police were engaged in a gunfight with a foreigner, resulting in the death and wounding of both Chinese soldiers and the subsequent arrest of the foreigner.

Locally, no information of any sort is obtainable from the British consular authorities upon the Thorburn case, instructions having been issued by the Consul-General that no statement of any sort is to be made to the Press.

[illegible]
Please file

11.

[redacted]

[redacted] INQUIRY [redacted]

General Chang Tsu [redacted] of Teachers

Information from Chinese sources reveals that [redacted] to Secretary of General Chang Tsu who is stated to have [redacted] a new clue in regard to the disappearance of Mr. Thorburn.

This move may be looked upon as the direct outcome of the events to which the "North-China Daily News" yesterday referred. It implies that the report which General Chang is preparing is not yet complete and possibly interesting developments may be expected.

Reg.
Please file
19.8.31

2118

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1931

[illegible] ON [illegible]

Promises Given To Thorburn Case In London

LONDON, July 30.—Sir Miles Lampson, the British Minister in Peking, has been instructed to tell Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, the head of the Chinese Government, that the British Government must insist that [illegible] be made [illegible] at Thorburn, and [illegible] punishment of the officers if he has been killed.

An announcement to this effect was made in Parliament yesterday by Dr. Dalton, the Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, while [illegible] of Mr. Arthur Henderson, [illegible] the "Daily Express".

Dr. Dalton said: "The report of the Chinese commission of inquiry states that all [illegible] the local officials concerned, have knowledge of any foreigner having been arrested.

"Sir Miles Lampson has therefore been instructed to make representations to the Chinese Government in the following terms:—

Government's Duty

"Independent inquiries have established beyond all reasonable doubt that Mr. Thorburn, who is under suspicion in some quarters of having shot at and fatally wounded two Chinese gendarmes, was arrested and handed over to the custody of military authorities, who have found means to silence the witnesses possessing knowledge of the facts.

"It is the duty of the Chinese Government in the first place to discover Mr. Thorburn's whereabouts and hand him over to the British authorities in China if he is still alive; and in the second place to inflict suitable punishment on any military authority who may have been responsible for maltreating him or causing his death.

"His Majesty's Government therefore most earnestly and strongly urge the Chinese Government with all expedition to find means of persuading the military authorities concerned in the present case of the urgent necessity of enabling the Chinese Government to carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized State."

"Sir Miles Lampson has been instructed to convey the foregoing as a special message from His Majesty's Government to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, the President of the National Government, adding that he has instructions to raise the question with the highest authority, since his Majesty's Government must insist on proper protection being afforded to British subjects."

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1926.

THORBURN INQUIRY NOT COMPLETE

Further Information Compels More Investigations

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

London, Aug. 17.

Inquiry at the Foreign Office here reveals the fact that the official report of the second inquiry into the disappearance of Mr. John Hay Thorburn has not yet been received. The result of the investigation made by the Vice-Minister of War, General Chen Yih, has not been forwarded by Sir Miles Lampson, H.M. Minister. Whitehall thus has no official knowledge of the substance of General Chen Yih's findings, which were reported in the Press to correspond with the findings of the first commission of inquiry, denying that any foreigner at all was involved in the shooting incident which, it is alleged, was the reason advanced for the arrest of the young Briton.

Semi-official reports from Chinese Government sources state that the inquiry of General Chen Yih into the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn is not complete. It is believed that further information has been received necessitating inquiries which are now being made. The report is therefore not yet fully drafted for submission to the Foreign Ministry.

It will be recalled that, on Saturday, a Reuter message from Nanking stated that the report which was "nearly completed" threw no further light on the case and reiterated the statement that no foreigner had been arrested. On this message the "North-China Daily News" pointed out the serious implications of the adoption by the Chinese Government of so fantastic a report.

Reg
Please file
WG
19.8.26.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 2464
Date 18. 8. 31.

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Monday, August 17, 1931

[illegible]

ANOTHER FARCE

By H. G. W. [illegible]

FOR some days past it has been repeatedly stated in the Chinese Press that General Chen Yi, Vice-Minister of War, who had been entrusted by General Chiang Kai-shek with the conduct of the new inquiry into the disappearance of John Thorburn, had returned to Nanking, after spending two or three days in Soochow and Quinsan, and had reported that he had been unable to discover any evidence in regard to the arrest and subsequent fate of the missing Briton.

This report was confirmed, on Friday, by a Reuter message from Nanking, which stated that General Chen Yi's investigation had been hastily completed, and that his report to the Waichiaopu would throw no further light upon the case.

An [illegible] Affront

Until this report is officially confirmed I should hesitate to believe that the Chinese Government would be guilty of the crass stupidity of affronting the British Government in such a fashion. [illegible] a thorough [illegible] ascertain the truth. [illegible] military [illegible] for the truth, [illegible] has not been even a pretence of investigation up to the present. And if a report is issued based upon what General Chen Yi has done up to the present grave doubt will be thrown upon the sincerity of the Chinese Government from the President downward.

No British Participation

It is on record that exhaustive inquiries into Thorburn's disappearance have been made by a British Consular official, Mr. A. L. Scott, and that he obtained a mass of evidence that "established beyond reasonable doubt that Mr. Thorburn ... was arrested and handed over to a Chinese Military Authority, who found means to silence witnesses with a knowledge of the facts." This quotation is from the statement made on behalf of the British Foreign Office in the House of Commons.

If, therefore, the Chinese Government really desired to elucidate the mystery of Mr. Thorburn's disappearance the first step should have been to invite Mr. Scott to attend the inquiry, and to place

investigation, was the last man who ought to have been entrusted, without adequate safeguards, to conduct the inquiry.

Not unless Nanking feels that it can safely affront the British Government, will any findings which do not disclose the facts regarding Mr. Thorburn's disappearance be [illegible] to H.M.'s [illegible]. If, however, the Chinese Government is determined [illegible] with a policy of [illegible] and evasion, and to let the [illegible] their own way, it [illegible] encourage the [illegible] of affronting a great [illegible] Power.

What Should Be Done

I trust that [illegible] of a reply on the [illegible] being sent [illegible] he will [illegible] to the Waichiaopu [illegible] and that [illegible] by the [illegible] to withdraw [illegible] the Chinese Government is ready to give proof of its [illegible] and good-faith.

In the meantime, in my opinion, no time should be lost in publishing, in the form of a White Paper, all the evidence relating to Mr. Thorburn's disappearance which can properly be divulged by the British Authorities. The case has attracted worldwide attention. And if the Chinese Government is unable to carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized State, the truth should be given the widest possible publicity in such a form as to leave no doubt regard-

---

[illegible] shoulder and [illegible] developed a [illegible]

I should imagine that [illegible] is the case and for that [illegible] should just [illegible] him with that [illegible] richly deserve. [illegible] Mr. "Clayenore." Though [illegible] thinking with him [illegible] I think it was rather [illegible] on his part to use the [illegible] Mr. Rekceb. For [illegible] "[illegible] n.ore," old chap, [illegible] do not hurt a [illegible] of Mr. Rekceb's type and furthermore, they like it as they imagine they have your Scotch (I am right?) blood up.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, in anticipation for publishing this letter, I am,

H. P. F.

MR. REKCEB AGAIN

To The Editor:

Touching Rekceb's letter in your issue of the 13th; I regret that I have noticed previous correspond-

[illegible] the [illegible] may [illegible]? [illegible] for- [illegible] in the 13 [illegible]

[illegible] about [illegible] did not. It is the [illegible] of the home team to [illegible] their own [illegible]

Why [illegible] the Marines to be home team? [illegible] in [illegible] game [illegible] we were [illegible] and [illegible] the other team [illegible] playing [illegible] a neutral diamond, and the Marines won the game.

Now, what are the conditions existing here at the present time? The local Japanese practically demand that two-thirds of the

SHANGHAI MUNI[illegible] 2094
C. & S. B. REGY.
No. S. B. D. 2464.
Date 16. 8. 31.

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST [illegible], 1931

[illegible] of his [illegible] accompanied the Minister.

While he was at Soochow, General Chen [illegible] attended a [illegible] party in his honour, and he was present at a review of the local garrison.

It is understood that the report to the Foreign Office will throw no further light on the case, nor indeed add anything material to the previous Chinese official report. Like the latter, the Vice-Minister's report mentions a fracas near Soochow between an unknown person (or persons) and some Chinese soldiers, in which two soldiers were shot, the assailant escaping. It also reiterates the statement in the previous Chinese official report that no foreigner had been arrested and subsequently killed.

No Confirmation

There [illegible] no confirmation from [illegible] Chinese sources of the [illegible] evidence adduced by [illegible] of Mr. Scott, [illegible] (who conduct[illegible] the case [illegible] 131, that a [illegible] his head [illegible] nor of [illegible] stories about the foreigner in question.—Reuter.

Reg.
Please file.
16:8:31.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1931

RESULT OF THORBURN SECOND INQUIRY

Vice-Minister Of War Ends Mission Without Result

The second Chinese official investigation of the Thorburn mystery has been completed, according to a Chinese report received in Shanghai from Nanking yesterday, which states that General Cheng Yih, Vice-Minister of War, has completed his inquiries at Quinsan and Soochow and returned to the capital to render his report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

General Cheng is alleged to have told press representatives at Nanking that he commenced his investigation by questioning numerous railway guards along the line from Nanking to Quinsan, all of whom denied knowledge of the missing British youth.

Some of them admitted knowledge of the skirmish between railway guards and a gang of bandits wherein two guards were killed. But they denied any knowledge of a Russian or foreigner being involved in that affair.

While in Soochow, General Cheng interrogated military and civil officials, but without discovering any information which might throw light on the mystery.

In Soochow he learned from the military authorities that on the morning of June 2 a gang of railway bandits was active in the vicinity of Quinsan and that instructions were issued to the railway guards to exercise extra precautions.

The guards eventually came into conflict with a gang and sustained casualties after being ambushed.

A report of this incident appearing in the Chinese press of Shanghai implicated a Russian in the shooting, but investigation of G[illegible] failed to connect Thorburn with the affair in any way.

D.C. (Crime)
Information
H. Emans

15.8.31

14.8.31

41.

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No. 5. B.

The Shanghai Evening [illegible]

[illegible] Relates Chauffeur's Side Of Story

By [illegible]

[illegible] Park. Hard by the lake a foreigner was seated alone, [illegible] one of the [illegible] and apparently deep in thought. Idly he raised his eyes to see a Chinese [illegible] seated clearly steadily [illegible] him.

[illegible] glanced away, only to glance back. For [illegible] eyes that the [illegible] eyes of the Oriental. Both this time, gazed a little longer, a little steadier. The [illegible], however [illegible].

The same thing happened three or four times. Finally the foreigner could stand it no longer. Why the [illegible]-blank was the [illegible] staring at him? He rose to [illegible] out.

Striding angrily to the surprised Chinese, the foreigner demanded to know why he was staring at him.

The Chinese, well-dressed and obviously of the better class, quietly and slowly replied in excellent English:

"My friend, do not become excited and nervous. How could you know that I was gazing at you if you were not gazing at me?"

The foreigner suddenly felt ashamed. He forgot that he was of the Occident and the man before him of the Orient. He was conscious only that the man before him was a fellow man, courteous and gentlemanly.

The foreigner rose to the occasion and expressed his regrets. The Chinese smiled and extended his hand.

* * *

"Nearly Crippled"

[illegible] in the Wayside District played a shabby trick on a [illegible]. The latter is stated to have noted with envious eye another beggar, who was reaping a harvest of small coins with the aid of a sign which read: Nearly Blind.

The [illegible] beggar went to an [illegible] [illegible] for the big [illegible] [illegible] Nearly Crippled.

[illegible] for [illegible] to London [illegible]

A [illegible]

[illegible] D.S.O. and Mr. W. [illegible] of the [illegible] Petroleum Corporation, which is supplying the fuel for the flight, were on hand to greet Mr. Chichester when his plane landed.

Guest of [illegible]

During his short stay here Mr. Chichester is the guest of Colonel Thoms. It was announced this morning that the Australia to London flier shortly will attempt his hazardous flight across the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Chichester has had many years of flying to his credit. He has piloted "[illegible]," his moth plane, between England and New Zealand and has done much to popularize aviation in the Commonwealth.

Shyest Of Fliers

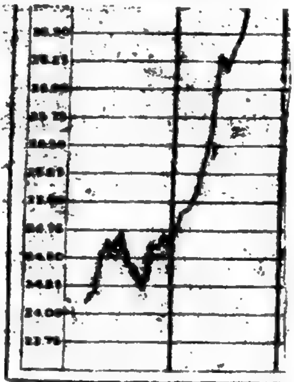
He is an Englishman, not an Australian, but has made the Commonwealth his home for many years. Bearded and bespectacled, he is said to be one of the shyest of aviators, disclaiming credit at all times for his many remarkable air trips.

A reception is being planned for Mr. Chichester by both the [illegible] and the Royal Air Force Association here today.

Dibrell Leaves On Dollar Ship

President Grant Sails For America With Passengers, Mail

Commander [illegible] O. Dibrell, United States Navy, [illegible] were [illegible] Wolf, [illegible] Benjamin [illegible] for San Fran-



Movements of the Shangl market are traced in a conc and [illegible] manner by the A.O.F Average. Sharp fluctuations of [illegible] often attract much attention that no accurate impression of the [illegible] of general market results. The Am [illegible] Oriental Finance Corp. carefully selected [illegible] representat stocks, and the compiled aver as charted in the a [illegible] graph reflects the trend of market.

The A.O.F.C. Average has be designed to be of use as an econ [illegible] index so that it may [illegible] value to people who are particularly close followers of Shanghai Stock Market. Th care has been taken not to [illegible] the "Average" too speculative too sensitive to extraordinary [illegible] ditions that have no econo basis. The representative featu is most strongly emphasized, stocks included in the 'A.O.F Average reflect a wide range Shanghai business and industri activity.

The economic isolation Shanghai is strongly brought by the charted "Average." Fr the end of February to the midd of July, the [illegible] mark consolidated its sharp gains of t early spring. The [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] in the ma

[illegible]

Sh. Times 10:8:31.

O. Ue Sp. Rt.

[illegible]

Chinese Press Report Of Finding Missing Lad In Doubt

[illegible] OF [illegible]

Interest in the [illegible] was revived in [illegible] yesterday [illegible] a report [illegible] papers, [illegible] and others, [illegible] Thorburn [illegible]

[illegible] by a [illegible] discovery of Thorburn's [illegible] being denied by the officials interviewed.

Officially Denied

"Absolutely groundless," is how Mr. T. C. Chao, Chief Secretary of the local office, described the report. How and where the Chinese newspapers got hold of such a report, Mr. Chao was at a loss to understand. "Even if the Foreign Ministry had received such information," declared Mr. Chao, "it could not release such information piece-meal until the matter had thoroughly been investigated, in view of the gravity of the affair."

Dr. S. T. Wang, Nationalist Minister for Foreign Affairs, at present in Shanghai, who has had personal conferences with Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, with regard to the Thorburn mystery and its investigation, has heard nothing of the discovery expected by the Chinese press, the Nanking [illegible] has denied.

[illegible] to Nanking the information alleged by the paper in question. The editor of the paper is advised to publish a retraction of the report.

Nanking Inquiries

NANKING, Aug. 8.—Inquiries made here this morning at both the Foreign Office and at the British Consulate fail to get confirmation of reports in the Shanghai Chinese newspapers that the body of Mr. John Thorburn had been found at Soochow. —Reuter.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1931

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE THORBURN CASE

Gen. Chiang Kai-shek Orders Another and Thorough Investigation

INSTRUCTIONS FROM NANCHANG

Searching Inquiry Ordered Into Mystery of Missing British Youth

THE "North-China Daily News" is reliably informed, on advices received late last night from Nanking, that President Chiang Kai-shek has issued orders from Nanchang for another and thorough investigation into the circumstances of the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, in the light of the further representations made to the Chinese Government by Sir Miles Lampson at Nanking.

It is understood that the President's orders are of the most definite kind and call firmly for a most searching investigation. This is the outcome of the personal efforts which Sir Miles Lampson has been making since his arrival at Nanking by air from Peitaiho on July 28.

There have been conversations between Sir Miles and Dr. C. T. Wang who have discussed the matter at great length. Some difficulty was created by the absence of General Chiang Kai-shek in Kiangsi, where he has been engaged in personally directing the campaign against the rebel Communist armies. General Chiang Kai-shek was, however, apprised at Nanchang of the British Government's views on the reply sent by the Chinese Government on July 16 to the representations made in June by the British Minister on the subject of Mr. Thorburn's whereabouts.

It will be recalled that Mr. Henderson on July 27 instructed Sir Miles Lampson to point out that an independent inquiry had established beyond reasonable doubt that Mr. Thorburn, who was under suspicion in some quarters of having shot and fatally wounded two Chinese gendarmes, had been arrested and handed over to a Chinese military authority, who had found means to silence witnesses with a knowledge of the facts. It was therefore the first duty of the Chinese Government firstly to discover Mr. Thorburn's whereabouts and to hand him over to the British authorities if he was still alive, and secondly suitably to punish any military authorities responsible for maltreating him or causing his death.

The instructions ended with a strong request to the Chinese Government "with all expedition to find means of persuading the military authorities concerned of the urgent necessity of enabling the Chinese Government to carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilised state."

These instructions have been in discussion between Sir Miles and Dr. C. T. Wang since July 28. Communication was established with General Chiang Kai-shek. The result is now seen in the order for the new and more thorough inquiry.

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THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1931

Another Thorburn Inquiry

The news that the President of the National Government has ordered another and most searching investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, shows that Sir Miles Lampson's presentation of the British Government's firm but friendly request to General Chiang Kai-shek has borne fruit. The Chinese Government have acted with prudent recognition of the justice of the contentions, put forward on the basis of the consular investigations, thus deciding to call for a further examination of the case. It is to be hoped that conditions will favour a prompt inquiry, for there seems, on the face of it, little reason for delay as the accumulation of material evidence has been [illegible] proceeding. No doubt, the British Government and the public behind them will recognise the correctness of the Chinese Government's response to Sir Miles Lampson's latest revelations. There will be every readiness to give the new investigators a fair field and to await their report accordingly.

Extract from the Morning Translation of
August 8, 1931

[illegible]

The China Times published the following telegram from Nanking : -

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in receipt of a report from the Shanghai Office stating that the dead body of the missing Swiss citizen named Thorburn has been found in Soochow, but the cause of his death is not known.

[illegible] IN THE [illegible] CASE

[illegible] Kai-shek Orders Another and Thorough Investigation

[illegible]TRUCTIONS FROM NANCHANG

[illegible]ing Inquiry Ordered Into Mystery of Missing British Youth

[illegible] "North-China Daily News" is reliably informed, on [illegible] advices received late last night from Nanking, that [illegible]sident Chiang Kai-shek has issued orders from Nanchang [illegible] another and thorough investigation into the circumstances [illegible] disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, in the light of the [illegible] representations made to the Chinese Government by Sir [illegible] Lampson at Nanking.

It is understood that the President's orders are of the most [illegible] and call urgently for a most searching investigation. [illegible] the outcome of the personal efforts which Sir Miles Lampson has been making since his arrival at Nanking by air [illegible]

[illegible] have been [illegible] Wang [illegible] have discussed the matter at great length. Some difficulty was created by the absence of General Chiang Kai-shek in Kiangsi, where he has been engaged in personally directing the campaign against the Communist armies. General Chiang Kai-shek was, however, apprised at Nanchang of the British Government's views in the night made by the Chinese Government on July [illegible] to the representations made in [illegible] of the British Minister on the authority of Mr. Thorburn's [illegible]

It [illegible] recalled that Mr. Nanking on July [illegible] instructed Sir Miles Lampson to point out that an [illegible] inquiry had established [illegible] ground reasonable doubt that Mr. Thorburn, who [illegible] under suspicion in some quarters of having shot and fatally wounded two Chinese gendarmes, had been arrested and handed over to a Chinese military authority, who had found means to silence witnesses with a knowledge of the facts. It was therefore the first duty of the Chinese Government firstly to discover Mr. Thorburn's whereabouts and to hand him over to the British authorities if he was still alive, and secondly suitably to punish any military authorities responsible for maltreating him or causing his death.

The representations ended with a strong request to the Chinese Government "with all expedition to find means of remedying the military depth of concerned of the urgent epidemic, of enabling the Chinese Government to carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized state."

These representations have been in discussion between Sir Miles and Dr. C. T. Wang since July 31. Communication was established with General Chiang Kai-shek. The result is now seen in the order for the new and more thorough inquiry.

Unjust To Blame China For Thorburn, Says Dr. Wang

Mr. Sheng, Foreign Office Man, Who Went To Soochow To Investigate, Reported Killed By Truck; Last Piece Of Evidence Obliterated

NANKING, July 31.—Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, called on Dr. C. T. Wang, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday afternoon in regard to the case of John Thorburn.

Sir Miles conveyed the British Government's strong protest, together with a request that the Chinese Government discover the whereabouts of young Thorburn and hand him over to the British authorities, if he is still alive, or, if he is dead, that suitable punishment should be meted out to the military authorities responsible.

Dr. Wang's Attitude

It is understood that the attitude adopted by Dr. C. T. Wang is, briefly, as follows:

"Mr. Thorburn is a British subject living in a Foreign Concession—Shanghai. As far as the Chinese authorities are concerned his existence was unknown. When he left Shanghai for an unknown destination, he obtained no passport from the Chinese Government. It is, there, unjust to lay the entire blame of anything that may have happened to him on the Chinese Government."

It is announced that Mr. Sheng, the representative of the Foreign Office, who, together with a representative of the War Office, went to Soochow to investigate the case some weeks ago, died on July 19 as the result of injuries received by being struck full by a truck. He died of concussion of the brain. Thus another piece of evidence that might have been obtained from the only Chinese civil official who investigated the case could not be produced.—Reuter.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1931

NO FURTHER LIGHT ON THORBURN CASE

H. M.'s Minister's Movements At Nanking Undisclosed

No fresh light was thrown upon the Thorburn case yesterday, either by official or other sources.

The British Consul-General, Mr. L. F. Brosan, questioned with regard to a report allegedly emanating from Nanking wherein Dr. C. T. Wang, Nationalist Minister of Foreign Affairs, was credited with blaming Thorburn for entering Chinese territory without a "huchao," or native pass, declared that he had no statement to make.

According to this report, the Chinese authorities take the attitude that Thorburn ran unnecessary risk when he failed to provide himself with this document which, according to the Nationalist Minister, would have advised the Chinese authorities of his intention to pass through Chinese territory and gained for him a measure of protection.

The report concludes by saying that "the responsible authorities, not having been acquainted with Thorburn's intentions, could not possibly hold themselves responsible for his movements."

1/8/31

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Friday, July 31, 1931

Reward Of $5,000 In Thorburn Case Still Unclaimed

Mr. John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton has today been missing for 60 days. Where is he?

Is he still alive?

Is he dead and if so where is the body?

The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury reward of $5,000 for conclusive proof of his whereabouts still is unclaimed, though several individuals have [illegible] to solve the mystery, [illegible] still stands. All [illegible] will be kept confidential by the editor, and the name or names of persons [illegible] for the reward will be kept secret.

File

THE CHINA PRESS, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1931

Thorburn Without Huchao, Declares Foreign Ministry

Wachsmuth Defends By Saying Journey Illegal

(Special To The China Press)

NANKING, July 30.—Sir Miles Lampson, the British minister to China, had a lengthy conversation with Dr. C. T. Wang, minister of foreign affairs, yesterday immediately upon his arrival by airplane from Peitaiho. Sir Miles, in the course of the conversation, is understood to have handed to Dr. Wang a memorandum on the Thorburn case.

Replying to the British minister's note today, the Foreign Ministry in a communication is said to have pointed out that according to the regular procedure, foreigners intending to travel in the interior of China must first obtain the necessary "huchao" so that the responsible authorities can notify beforehand the various local authorities through whose territory the traveller is expected to go in order that proper protection can be provided.

Mr. Thorburn, the ministry's reply is reported to have pointed out, failed to observe the required procedure. Moreover, the responsible authorities had not been acquainted with his intentions and therefore could not possibly hold themselves responsible for his movements.

No Lampson Report

(Reuter's Service)

LONDON, July 30.—Questioned in House of Commons today the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hugh Dalton, said that in view of the interest, very rightly and naturally, taken in the Thorburn case, he was sure Foreign Secretary Arthur Henderson, would give publicity to any communication received from Sir Miles Lampson, the British minister to China, during the Parliamentary recess.

Dr. Dalton added that no further reports had been expected from Sir Miles Lampson for some days in view of the fact that General Chiang Kai-shek was at present conducting military operations in Kiangsi.

Reg'y
Passed to you
AR. 3/8.

SI, Please pass Reg'y
Wpo.

31:7:10

Thorburn Publicity Is Promised By Dr. Dalton During Commons Recess

Under-Secretary Says He Feels Sure That Mr. Arthur Henderson Will Disclose Any Communication Received From Sir Miles Lampson

SIX BRITISH SUBJECTS DIE WHILE IN CAPTIVITY DURING PAST 3 YEARS

LONDON, July 29.—Questioned in the House of Commons to-day, Dr. Hugh Dalton, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that in view of the interest, very rightly and naturally, taken in the Thorburn case, he was sure Mr. Arthur Henderson, Foreign Secretary, would give publicity to any communication received from Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, during the Parliamentary recess.

Dr. Dalton added that no further [illegible] had been expected from Sir Miles Lampson for some days in view of the fact that General Chiang Kai-shek was at present conducting military operations in Kiangsi.—Reuter.

Britain's Message

LONDON, July 29.—Dr. Hugh Dalton, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Commons to-day, said, "Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister, left Peiping yesterday morning by aeroplane for Nanking with the object of delivering the message of the British Government personally to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek.

In the message which Sir Miles has been instructed to convey to the Chinese Government, the Government is urged with all [illegible] means of persuasion [illegible] the military authorities. In [illegible] Thorburn is believed [illegible] the urgent necessity of [illegible] the Chinese Government [illegible] carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized state.

In reply to another question Dr. Dalton stated that six British subjects had died in captivity in China in the past three years [illegible] through Reuter.

BRITISH MINISTER SEES DR. WANG

Nature Of Conversation Unrevealed By Local Authorities

Although no official statement was made by local British consular authorities yesterday regarding movements of the British Minister to China, now in Nanking in connection with the Thorburn inquiry, it was learned that Sir Miles Lampson had already conferred with Dr. C. T. Wang, Nationalist Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Sir Miles arrived at the capital by air from Peitaiho in the early part of this week for the special purpose of pressing the Nanking Government for a further investigation of the Thorburn mystery which the press and public of Shanghai and Great Britain have demanded in emphatic terms.

Just what form of further investigation the British Minister is demanding of the Nanking Government, remains to be ascertained. At present as no information of any sort is being given out by local British officials, Mr. J. F. Rennie, [illegible] M. [illegible] Kai-shek [illegible] any [illegible] that he had nothing to say about Sir Miles' movements.

Two Months Gone

It is exactly two months since John Thorburn (19), British youth, disappeared from his home in the French Concession, supposedly after setting out on foot in the direction of Nanking. The evid[illegible] [illegible] Commander of the Shan[illegible] Provincial Government and com[illegible] Chairman of the Shan[illegible] it is learned that General Shen [illegible] operation by Shih's units.

[illegible] Commander-in-Chief [illegible] from Generals Han [illegible] Shantung to curb any attempt [illegible] desired-along North-western [illegible] that three Shangsi divisions have [illegible] the times has information [illegible] from Generals Han [illegible] [illegible] of a large [illegible] [illegible] around the [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Thursday, July 30, 1931

Wang At Nanking Seen By Lampson In Thorburn Case

British Minister Pays Visit To Foreign Affairs Chief

CONSULATE HERE AWAITS MESSAGE

Future Extrality Plans May Rest On Outcome Of Negotiations

Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, made a formal call yesterday afternoon at the offices of Dr. C. T. Wang, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Nationalist Government, and the disappearance of young John Thorburn was discussed, according to a message received this morning from Nanking.

The exact nature of the discussion was not revealed. The conversation lasted for two full hours, it was stated, before Sir Miles and his Chinese secretary, Mr. Eric Teichman, departed.

Consulate Not Informed

Up to noon today no word was received at the local British Consulate-General regarding the nature of Sir Miles' conversation with Dr. Wang. Whether Sir Miles has made formal demands upon the Chinese government for punishment of Chinese soldiers alleged to have arrested and detained young John Thorburn is still unknown.

Sir Miles has been instructed by his government in London to demand another investigation by the Chinese in the Thorburn case. The instructions from London followed almost two full months of spirited agitation on the part of the local press for justice in young Thorburn's disappearance.

Youth Missing 30 Days

With future extraterritoriality negotiations possibly hanging in the balance, interest in the Thorburn case has intensified this week. This morning Mr. J. F. Brenan, British Consul General here, paced wearily to and fro in his office as to the latest developments in Sir Miles' visit.

Young John Thorburn will be missing from Shanghai two months tomorrow. He departed on June 1 to seek adventure, was seen at various times near Soochow until about June 10, after which time he vanished. Soochow is less than 60 miles from Shanghai.

List Grows

It was announced by Mr. H. J. Andrews, a friend of the missing youth, that the international list started last week in protest against the inaction in the Thorburn case now bears more than 400 signatures, representing 26 different nationalities.

Those who have not yet signed and wish to do so will find a circular list at the S.V.C. Club in the Administration Building, Foochow Road.

The $5,000 reward offered by The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury for information leading to the whereabouts, dead or alive of Mr. John Thorburn still was unclaimed this morning.

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY [illegible]

Thorburn Affair A Test Case For Both China And Britain, Declares 'Times'

LONDON CANNOT SUFFER ITS SUBJECTS TO BE ARRESTED BY MILITARY AND THEN DONE TO DEATH

NOTHING DOUBTFUL ABOUT FATE OF EXTRALITY TALK, SAYS 'TELEGRAPH'

Any Abdication Of Its Duty Would Deeply Discredit British Government In Public Opinion; Lord Palmerston Would Not Have Temporized

LONDON, July 28.—A very indignant leading article on the Thorburn case is published by the "Daily Telegraph" this morning. Remarking ironically that it has taken two months to decide that Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister, should personally take up the case with the Chinese Government, the paper declares that whatever reply to the British demands may be forthcoming from General Chiang Kai-shek, there ought to be nothing doubtful about the fate of the preposterous diplomatic entreaty proceedings which assume Nanking's ability to carry out "the ordinary obligations of a civilized government."

[illegible] Chinese military [illegible] deed to [illegible] which would [illegible] it would [illegible] China [illegible] government.

A Damaging Admission

On the other hand, [illegible] "for the Chinese [illegible] to continue to [illegible] Irish [illegible] affair [illegible] the British Government [illegible] it is [illegible] that [illegible] against [illegible] the [illegible] for [illegible] have been willing to yield the utmost concessions to Chinese misconceptions, and expresses the opinion that future negotiations are bound to be influenced by the failure of Nanking to impose respect for law or treaty rights on the military authorities.

The Lesson Of Thorburn

Before the British Government irretrievably commits itself, it says, the least that public opinion is entitled to expect is that it should most carefully ponder the lessons of the Thorburn case and give consideration to the recommendations of Mr. Justice Feetham.

The present system, concludes the "Times," contains admitted defects and anomalies which should be abolished, but in the Treaty Ports and particularly in Shanghai, there is a nucleus of stability which is far too important a factor in the orderly progress of China to be jeopardised by a Government unable, or unwilling, to compel its own servants to respect the law or even to call them to account when they have flagrantly broken it.

The "Daily Express" remarks that Lord Palmerston, who knew the value of prestige in the Orient, would not have waited half as long as Sir Miles Lampson has done.

It adds that Sir Miles Lampson must compensate for Mr. Arthur Henderson's tardiness by acting with double vigour and insistence.—Reuter.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1931

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] expected almost immediately.

The British Minister reached the capital on Tuesday night by aeroplane from Peitaho where he was [illegible] vacation. The urgency of the Thorburn case caused this to be cut short, however, on instructions received from the Home Government, it is believed.

No statement could be made yesterday by the British Consul-General, Mr. J. F. Brenan C.M.G., as to the plans or movements of the Minister apart from the fact that he had reached Nanking. The Minister, it is understood, intends making direct representations to General Chiang Kai-shek in a further effort to solve the mystery of the disappearance of John Thorburn, 19-year-old British youth missing from his home in Shanghai for two months.

Agitation locally for official action in the matter has temporarily subsided since news of the Minister's movements has reached the city, although interest in the case is believed to have been heightened rather than to have diminished, in spite of lack of outward evidence of same.

30/7/31

Le Journal de Shanghai.

dated July 30, 1931.

The case of Thorburn and its reflections.

Our contemporary The North Chin a Daily News published yesterday once again details in connection with the case of Thorburn. The young Englishman was seen in Soochow on June 10 by a witness at about dusk. He was in a pitiful state, wounded, covered with blood, and his hands tied at the back, pushed by soldiers who appeared to be conducting him to a place from which there is no return. (Here follows an extract on the subject from the "North China Daily News").

Despite the negative result of an enquiry conducted by the Nanking Government nobody doubts any longer that the young Thorburn had been arrested by the soldiers of Soochow garrison, was tortured by them and very possibly executed under circumstances which we are ignorant of but which it would be interesting to know.

We think that the officials of Waichiaopu are persons of too much intelligence to believe that the report of the enquiry commission appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the War Ministry, is correct. It is probable that upon learning of the execution of Thorburn by the soldiers, the enquiry commission decided to throw a thick veil on the whole of this affair in order to hide from the world the real situation in China, which official representatives of Nanking Government abroad describe as a country where law is respected, where good order prevails, and where extraterritoriality is to all appearances an anomaly..

Leaders of the Anglo-Saxon nations have since many months now been conducting negotiations on the subject of extraterritoriality. In obedience to certain reasons of opportunism which we shall refrain from discussing, or in support of certain influences, which we shall not comment upon or pass judgment on, they were showing a spirit of accommodating conciliation to a great extent, Never before were there so many missionaries and foreigners arrested, carried away or massacred in China as within the past two three years, nevertheless the renunciation to special foreign rights in interior provinces, that is to say, logically, where the situation is practically the same to-day as when these rights were granted, continued to be discussed. It would seem as if one was fascinated by Nanking, where the Government had assembled numerous intelligent and educated officials and established a modern administration. What does it matter that a few hours away from Nanking the situation was quite different, the capital alone mattered together with the distinguished men who were preparing a future there. The discussions were inclined to treat the future as reality.

When news was received that in Hounan, Kiangsi, Hupeh and Nganhoei, bandits and communists had been arresting or killing missionaries, it was sufficient to deplore these sad incidents.

The case of Thorburn, by its reflections abroad, has brought about the effect of a thunderbolt. The veil which concealed the truth has been thorn apart. It is only 40 kilometres from Shanghai that the military authorities

subjected directly to the Central Government have violated international conventions and ignored the authority of the Nanking Government. Furthermore, this same Government, which, we are certain, is the first to deplore the excesses of the Soochow garrison soldiers, did not, however dare to deal vigorously with the guilty military and attempted to pass the affair by in silence, thinking that the foreign opinion would get tired and would end up by finding other interests. Bad reckoning; the truth has emerged in spite of everything.

The result of all this is that the Anglo-Saxon countries are now talking of showing themselves less inclined to be conciliatory in the matter of extraterritoriality. And really speaking, when one considers that the military are in a position to oppose the Government, and to prevent the functioning of a judicial body by intimidating witnesses, the question naturally arises what will be the fate of foreigners when the abolition of extraterritoriality will have delivered them to the mercy of uncultured, brutal and unscrupulous soldiers.

G.M.

Reg. Please file

JPG
20:7:'31

Thorburn case

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Wednesday, July 29, 1931

Lampson To Ask Troops Punished

Demand Will Be Filed With Fresh Protest, Officials State

Responding quickly to the orders of the British Foreign Office in London demanding a further investigation on the part of the Nationalist Government in the Thorburn case, Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, landed in Nanking by plane last night.

Sir Miles' holiday at Peitaiho was ended abruptly yesterday when he was instructed to file further protest over the mysterious disappearance of young John Thorburn, 19, British subject, missing from his home in Shanghai 30 days.

Plans Uncertain

It was stated at the local British Consulate-General this morning that Sir Miles' plans are indefinite, but it was considered certain that demands would be made upon Chinese authorities for punishment of soldiers responsible for the detention or possible slaying of young Thorburn.

Sir Miles may make a flying trip to Nanchang to deliver his message personally to General Chiang Kai-shek, or else he may make his demands to Dr. C. T. Wang, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

New Evidence

Meanwhile further evidence was uncovered in an attempt to corroborate the opinion expressed by previous investigators that young Thorburn was arrested by Chinese soldiers at Soochow.

A man now in this city, whose identity is being kept secret, has described how he saw the youth, badly injured, in the company of Chinese gendarmerie in Soochow on June 10. Young Thorburn was bleeding and bound, it was charged, being driven by Chinese soldiers to a boat in the creek for transportation, evidently to Taihu Lake, which is 10 miles away from Soochow.

Great Secrecy

His head and body were cut and bleeding, it was stated. Passersby were threatened when they attempted to approach the youth, it was charged, and the Chinese soldiers were taking great care to insure secrecy in their operations.

The reward of $5,000 offered by The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury for information leading to the whereabouts of Mr. John Thorburn, dead or alive, still is unclaimed. A board of awards will decide the virtue of all claims and information received will be held in strict confidence.

Please file

Lampson Flying To Nanking For Thorburn Probe

Minister To Press For Fuller Information On British Youth

(Reuter's Pacific Service)

PEIPING, July 30.—It is understood here that Sir Miles Lampson left Peitaiho by air this morning for Nanking in lieu of the Thorburn [illegible] of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

[illegible]

(Reuter's Pacific Service)

PEIPING, July 30.—The French aviator, Cheng de Sibour, accompanied by his wife, flew from Peiping to Peitaiho this morning with the intention of picking up Sir Miles Lampson and conveying him to Nanking. However, owing to the floods in the capital, the authorities here are doubtful whether they will be able to land in Nanking.

Demand Before Chiang

Decision of the British government to ask the Chinese government "with all expedition to find means of persuading the military authorities concerned of the urgent necessity of enabling the Chinese Government to carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized state" has led Dr. Hugh Dalton, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to instruct Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China to place the demand before president Chiang Kai-shek himself.

Sir Miles will arrive with his staff at Nanking next Friday, it was announced by the local British Consulate yesterday. This has necessitated his cutting short his holiday at Peitaiho, where he has been for somtime.

The protection of the rights of British subjects in China has been renewed in the minds of members of the House of Commons as a result of the persistent publicity that has been given the case of John Thorburn, who has been missing from his home in Shanghai for 60 days. Press notices, editorials, petitions of local British subjects all have contributed to arousing the government of Great Britain to request their representative in China to demand action.

The special demands of the British government are that the Chinese Government find Mr. Thorburn and deliver him to British officer[illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] authorities [illegible] of authority" in [illegible] Chinese, [illegible] their [illegible] to him for action in [illegible]

[illegible] Statement

(Reuter's Pacific Service)

[illegible] On the House of Commons, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. H. Dalton, replied on behalf of the Foreign [illegible] and [illegible] of Miss Thorburn.

[illegible] Sir Miles Lampson had been instructed to make representations to the Chinese Government [illegible] the following sense: "Inquiries with Shanghai have established beyond all reasonable doubt that Thorburn, who is under suspicion for [illegible] of having shot at [illegible] fatally wounding two [illegible] was detained and [illegible] to the custody of [illegible] have found [illegible] witnesses possessing [illegible] for the facts.

[illegible] is the duty of the Chinese Government [illegible] the first place to [illegible] bandits in [illegible] have shot in [illegible] to secure suitable punishment [illegible] military authority who may have been responsible [illegible] him or sending [illegible] Nanking's Government [illegible] earnestly and [illegible] Government [illegible] to find means of [illegible] the military authorities [illegible] in the present [illegible] necessity of [illegible] Chinese Government [illegible] carry out the ordinary obligations of a civilized state."

[illegible] that Sir Miles Lampson had been instructed to convey the [illegible] demands from [illegible] Government and to [illegible] and proper [illegible] to British subjects.

[illegible]

D. 2464

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1932.

Thorburn Case Goes Step Farther

LONDON, July 27.—Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, has been instructed to take the Thorburn case to General Chiang Kai-shek, since "His Majesty's Government must insist upon the proper protection of British subjects."

This was the pronouncement made by Dr. [illegible] Dalton, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in answer to questions in the House of Commons this afternoon.—Reuter.

File

THE NORTH-CHINA SUNDAY NEWS, JULY 26, 1931

THE THORBURN CASE

Demand for Surrender of Missing Britain

SENT BY MR. FRANKS

Further Representations Authorized

From Our Own Correspondent

London, July 26.

I am officially informed that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Arthur Henderson, this morning authorized further representations to the Nanking Government over the disappearance of Mr. J. H. Thorburn. A demand is to be made that Mr. Thorburn be produced for immediate trial under British law, in accordance with the extraterritoriality provisions of the treaty between Great Britain and China.

From an independent source the British Government has been informed that Mr. Thorburn, alive or dead, is in the hands of the Chinese military.

Local Protests

That the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn and the apparent official indifference to his whereabouts, is actually engaging the attention of Britons everywhere in China is indicated by a telegram received yesterday from Weihaiwei.

This reported that 52 signatures to the protest recently circulated among local British residents had been mailed from visitors to that summer resort.

The list of signatures to the protest is otherwise steadily growing and indignation has obviously transcended the bounds of nationality. A non-British protest, now in circulation, yesterday afternoon had 24 nationalities represented by its more than 200 endorsers.

Government Approached

The telegram sent to London by the China Association after its meeting on July 21 has also had gratifying results, according to word received yesterday from Home. The London executive of the Association has now undertaken to bring the circumstances of the Thorburn case vividly before the people of Great Britain and as an initial effort in this connection had already broadcast the text of the telegram throughout the country.

The Parent Body has also arranged for a number of further questions to be asked in the House of Commons in regard to Thorburn's whereabouts and has approached the Government on the subject. Although no definite action has yet been notified by the Government nor a reply received to the letter containing particulars of the protest and its consequences, it is confidently expected that satisfactory information will be available for transmission to Shanghai at an early date.

SI.
Please pass to Reg. While
Regy. Please file
H.P. 27/7

19[illegible]

THE SHANGHAI SUNDAY TIMES, JULY [illegible]

China [illegible] On [illegible] From [illegible]

LONDON, [illegible] A[illegible] the [illegible] up [illegible]

The [illegible] broadcast [illegible] by the China [illegible] after the [illegible] July 21.

The Association has [illegible] asked [illegible] House of Commons in regard [illegible] Thorburn's disappearance and has approached [illegible] Government on the subject. No [illegible] definite [illegible] however, has [illegible] the Government [illegible] to the letter [illegible].

LONDON, July [illegible] is [illegible] the [illegible] is [illegible] the [illegible] regarding the [illegible] Mr. Thorburn [illegible] to believe was [illegible] authorities and [illegible] Chinese military [illegible] as a trespasser [illegible] and who has been detained ever since.

The British Government is [illegible] over [illegible] court [illegible] been in the [illegible] October.

S.I., Please pass Wkey. to file.

27.7.31

D 2464. ~~1925~~

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY [illegible] 1931

FURTHER QUESTIONS ON THORBURN

Interpellations To Be Put To Henderson Next Monday

DANGERS OF GIVING UP EXTERALITY RIGHTS

LONDON, July 23.—The interest taken by the House of Commons in the case of Mr. Thorburn is indicated by the fact that further questions will be put to Mr. Arthur Henderson, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on Monday.

The line taken by the Conservatives is that the case illustrates the dangers of relinquishing extraterritoriality or of any measure which would place Europeans under Chinese authority.

The firm line indicated in the report given by the Government in the House of Commons yesterday is welcomed, and it is stated that every possible step will be taken to keep the question in active being until it is settled satisfactorily.—Reuter.

Reg
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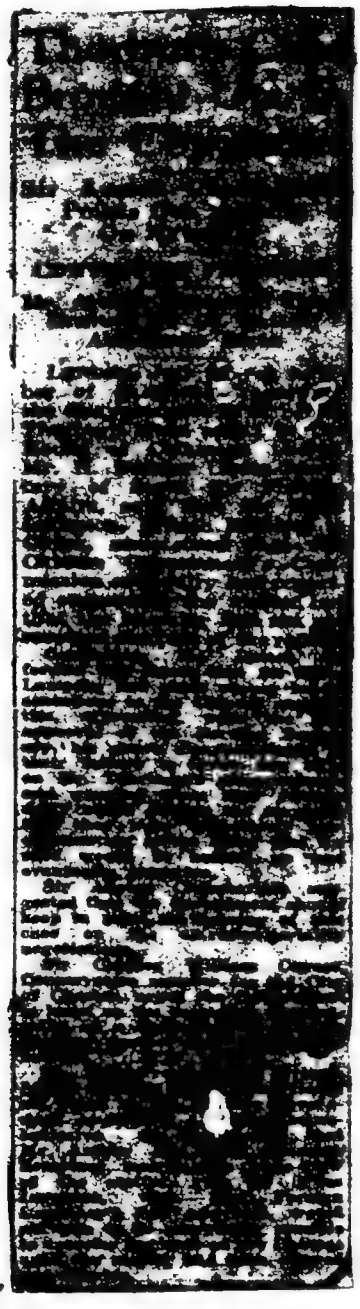
THE [illegible] DAILY [illegible] JULY [illegible], 1931



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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 23rd, 1931.

Additional Evidence Is Found [illegible] Was Arrested By Gendarmerie

PRIEST TELLS OF VISIT FROM BRITISH YOUTH DURING NIGHT OF JUNE 7 AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST BY SOLDIERS

STRUGGLES WITH CAPTORS AND RECEIVES BAYONET WOUND IN NECK

Appeal Of Local British Residents Received In London; Reply Comes Back Waiting Action Will Be Taken; Chinese Government

"The Shanghai Times" is able to-day to give additional indisputable evidence of the fact that John Thorburn, 19-year-old British resident of Shanghai, who has been missing for over seven weeks, was actually [illegible] in the vicinity of Quinsan by Chinese [illegible] been furnished by a Catholic [illegible] Thorburn on the night of June 7 and [illegible] by Chinese police and taken off to [illegible]. The evidence also shows that Thorburn broke away from his captors and dashed down the railway line where he was intercepted and again arrested after a struggle, during which he was wounded in the neck by a bayonet carried by one of the soldiers. What happened to Thorburn after his second arrest is a mystery which the entire foreign community of Shanghai is anxious to solve, with or without the aid of the Chinese authorities.

This further proof of Thorburn's arrest has come from a reliable source. The report gives details of the [illegible] actually [illegible] police [illegible] the [illegible]

It [illegible] that Thorburn [illegible] Shanghai, [illegible] by [illegible] Chinese and Manchurian [illegible] June 1. He was [illegible] Manchurian [illegible] Chinese [illegible]

Gnd
24/7/31.

Reg
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JJG
24/7/31

[illegible]

[illegible] midday [illegible] wished [illegible] this was [illegible]

[illegible]

Not [illegible] took his [illegible] only [illegible] some [illegible] and [illegible] they [illegible] seized him and led him off in the direction of Quinsan. He was locked up temporarily in a small house, but somehow managed to break out, and fled once again in the direction of the priest's house.

Pursued by soldiers, Thorburn dashed along the railway line where he was intercepted by another group of soldiers, who seized him. Thorburn struggled violently, but was finally overcome, receiving a bayonet wound in the neck during the struggle. Just how serious the wound was the priest was unable to say, as Thorburn was hurried off in the direction of the Quinsan railway station. This was the last seen of Thorburn by the priest.

Other Evidence

Other witnesses examined by Mr. A. L. Scott, British Vice-Consul, have stated that Thorburn had his arms tied behind his back and was taken by train from Quinsan to Suchow. Witnesses also stated that Thorburn was seen in Suchow, wounded and, as unexplained report states, mutilated.

In the light of this fresh evidence it appears beyond question that Thorburn was arrested by the Chinese authority at Quinsan and was illegally taken to the Quinsan Railway Station where he was entrained for Suchow.

Another Protest

In the meantime indignation in Shanghai is growing daily. The cabled protest signed by over 2,000 British residents has reached London where Mr. F. H. Crossley, formerly of Shanghai, who has cabled receipt of the protest, will see that it reaches the right quarters.

Still another national society has interested itself in the disappearance of Thorburn. Yesterday the Shanghai branch of the Anzac Society, consisting of local Australians and New Zealanders, forwarded the following telegraphic protest to the British Prime Minister:

Shanghai Anzac Society consisting of Anzacs who fought in Great War and Australians New Zealanders resident China record strongest indignation disappearance John Thorburn (stop) Despite conclusive evidence of arrest obtained by British Authorities Chinese Government deny all knowledge of

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Thursday, July 23, 1931

Lampson Warns Wang To Probe Thorburn Case

Minister Has Condemned Action By Nanking, Parliament Told

FEELING AROUSED IN GREAT BRITAIN

Dalton Tells Commons Sir Miles' Demands Investigation

(United Press)

LONDON, July 22.—Any further delay on the part of the Chinese Government in solving the mysterious disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, the year-old British subject who has been missing for almost two months from his home in Shanghai, will confirm the suspicion that the Chinese Government is deliberately procrastinating, Mr. Hugh Dalton, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs declared in the House of Commons tonight.

Replying to blunt questions from Sir Charles Cayzer, the Conservative member of Parliament for the City of Chester, Under-Secretary Dalton said that already Sir Miles Lampson, His Britannic Majesty's Minister to China, has made strong representations to the Chinese National Government at Nanking.

Lampson Warns Nanking

In his representations to Dr. C. T. Wang, the Foreign Minister of the Nanking Government, Sir Miles Lampson has expressed regret that there has been no further elucidation of the disappearance of Mr. Thorburn since the statement of the Chinese authorities that their investigation showed that the young British subject never was arrested nor imprisoned by the Chinese police or military.

Mr. Dalton said that Sir Miles Lampson has warned the Foreign Minister at Nanking that "any further delay will confirm the suspicion that the Chinese authorities are deliberately procrastinating, believing that the Thorburn case can be hushed up and eventually forgotten."

Indignation In England Growing

Through the efforts of British subjects in China, especially in Shanghai, and because of the interest which has been aroused in official circles in England the Thorburn case is receiving widespread publicity in England.

Indignation has mounted since the receipt of cabled reports of the only official statement given out by the Nanking Government last week. Belief here prevails that it would have been impossible for Mr. Thorburn to disappear completely from the earth within only a few miles of Shanghai without the knowledge of the Chinese authorities, who enjoy diplomatic recognition by the British Government.

Press Linked With Extradition

The British press is carrying full and detailed accounts of the Thorburn case, the feeling it has aroused throughout China and criticism of British as well as of Chinese officials.

A very definite connection between the Thorburn case and China's demands for the abolition of extraterritoriality is seen by many British editors.

Annam Send Message

The Annam Society of Shanghai, the newest British organization here, yesterday added its protest to those already sent to London by various other organizations, including St. George's Society, St. Andrew's Society, St. Patrick's Society and St. Daniel's Society. The protest of the Annam Society was in the form of a telegram to the British Prime Minister. The message follows:

"Shanghai Annam Society, consisting of Annams who fought in Great War, and Australians, New Zealanders resident in China, record strongest indignation on disappearance of John Thorburn. Despite beachfront evidence of arrest obtained by British authorities, Chinese Government denies all knowledge of his whereabouts. Annam Society prays that immediate action be taken to safeguard British prestige as the future safety of all Britishers in China is dependent on this."

New Evidence Found

New evidence concerning the arrest of young Thorburn has been uncovered, according to one report made public this morning. The report states that a Catholic priest living near Quinsan has come forward with the story of the arrest of the youth.

The young man, according to the priest, called at his home about 10 p.m. on June 1. He knocked at the door and was admitted. His clothing is stated to have been thoroughly wet. He remarked that he had fallen into the water. The following morning, the report says, the youth left the house that had gone only a short distance when he was seized by soldiers. He broke away after a struggle, ran, but again was seized, being wounded in the neck by a bayonet in the hands of a soldier. The last the priest saw of him he was being hurried off in the direction of the Quinsan railway station.

British Women Protest

It is announced that all British women interested in the Thorburn case will find a list for signatures of protest at the British Women Association headquarters, 12 Th[illegible] Road, during morning office hours 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Reg.
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24. 7. 31

1909

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1909

Mr. Nazer's Appeal

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—Last evening I sent off the following wire to Mr. F. H. Crossley, formerly of Shanghai, and well-known to most of the older residents here:—

"Please furnish most of the London papers with the following:—

An appeal signed by 2,200 British subjects in Shanghai earnestly requests the assistance of the London Press in giving the greatest publicity to the case of young Thorburn held without trial by the Chinese Authorities for over six weeks and every indication tortured mutilated or dead. Immediate strong action by the British Government absolutely essential and to secure this young subject life is urgent. This request becomes the more urgent in view of the moderating edict issued 18th by the Chinese Government regarding investigation. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this telegram."

I am glad to say I received the reply early this morning:—

"Telegram received will act"
Crossley.

A. P. Nazer.

Shanghai, July 21, 1909.

Fwd
23/7/'09.

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, [illegible]

800 Brit[illegible] Residents Sign Prote[illegible] On Thorburn Case

1,000 Signatures Expected Before Closing Time Today; Revised Text Of Cable Released

More than 800 British men and women residents of Shanghai at noon today had signed the Thorburn Appeal List, open to British residents for signature at 5 Peking Road. Indications at noon, despite threatening weather, were that fully 1,000 British residents will have signed the list before 4:30 p.m., which is closing time.

As soon as the list has been closed, it was stated today by Mr. A. P. Maxe, sponsor of the plan, the following cablegram will be dispatched to the leading newspaper of London:

Text Of Telegram

An appeal signed by . . . . British subjects in Shanghai earnestly requests the assistance of the London press in giving the greatest publicity to the case of young Thorburn held without trial by the Chinese authorities for more than six weeks and strong indication torture resulting mutilation or death (stop) Immediate strong action by the government absolutely essential and to secure this your united help is sought [illegible] the mendacious reply issued 18th by the Chinese Government regarding their investigation (stop).

A representative of The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury this morning was permitted to scan the list of signatures. A considerable number of names of outstanding British residents was noted.

Missing Since June 1

The list was opened to British residents as the result of the strange disappearance from Shanghai on June 1 of Mr. John Thorburn, 19, who has been missing for 51 days.

British authorities, from information obtained from various Chinese sources, have reason to believe that the young man was arrested by the gendarmerie near Shatsin, following the illegal shooting of two Chinese subjects, was taken to Soochow and either was put to death, after being tortured, or is badly injured and is being held a prisoner.

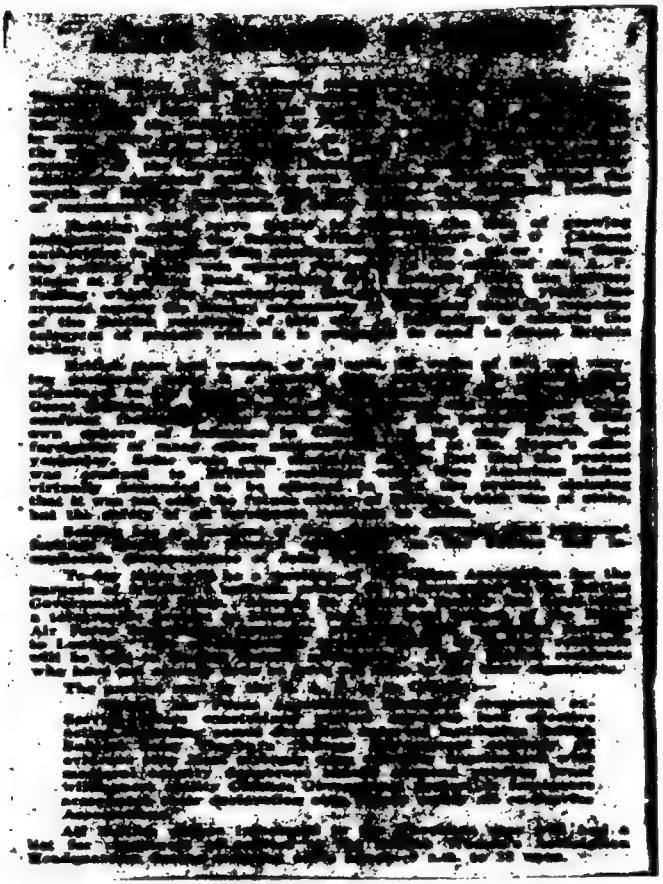
British Rights Denied

Representations were made to the Nanking Government by the British Minister to China, Sir Miles Lampson, through the [illegible] patents already have been forwarded to London by St. Andrew's Society, the local branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and the Royal Society of St. George.

Sir,
Please pass to Reg. Dept.
Notes & passed
HK 23/4

1891

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1891



THE CHINA PRESS, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1931

Thorburn Petition Has Many Signers

British And Foreign People Sign Petition

[illegible]

[illegible] London, [illegible] and [illegible] the petition will [illegible] London, [illegible] Mr. [illegible] said yesterday that he thought that method would be more effective than directly petitioning the Prime Minister or the Speaker of Commons.

While many foreigners sought to sign the petition yesterday, none but British subjects were allowed. Approximately [illegible] signed between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Local consular authorities would not be asked to sign, Mr. Hoare said.

Prof
21/7/31

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21: 7: 31.

1880

[illegible] and could not say if it was true."

British

"The stationmaster at Changsha noted that the foreigner had been put on the train going eastward just after 1 p.m. on June 2. He was in the custody of a party representing police. He said the foreigner [illegible] an interpreter on his [illegible] and he actually [illegible] on one of the seats of the station platform. The words were still there on June 10 when they were seen by Vice-Consul Bagg, but he was noticed examining them, and when he returned to the station shortly afterwards, they had been carefully erased."

Chinese

"We then called on the Chinese District Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police. They and Mr. A. Bruton, Vice-Consul, and Mr. Wang Ting of the North China Daily News had been in Changsha for a quite. They had both informed them that they only heard that two Chinese gendarmes had been wounded; they had not heard that a foreigner had been arrested."

* * *

British

No direct British statement.

Chinese

"We then [illegible] in the headquarters of the First Regiment of the Gendarmerie where [illegible] Commander-in-Chief [illegible] stated there that according to information from British sources there was a gendarme or two gendarmes guarding [illegible] who, as being interpreted by an Englishman, was alleged to have stated that a foreigner had been arrested. Was that true or not?

"A corporal named Chang Ai-shan interrogated Gendarme Hsiao Ju-sung, who said: 'When Li Kuo-hsi and Shen Li-[illegible] were severely wounded by bandits on the night of June 1, I received orders to escort them to the hospital at Shanghai to be cared for. The day after arrival at Shanghai, a foreigner and Chinese came to the hospital and cross-examined me on what had happened. I told them how the bandits had wounded my comrades, adding that there was a rumor abroad that one bandit had been captured. I said I did not think it was true, but I did not know whether anything of the sort had happened after I had come to Shanghai to escort my two comrades. It was only after I had returned to Changsha that I learned that it was about bandits' rounds.'"

* * *

British

"The Tai-soong, 'Tai tsung' of the 4th Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Military Police, spoke of the shooting incident and the arrest of a foreigner who was taken to Changsha where he was detained until the afternoon of June 2, when he was rescued under escort."

Chinese

"After that we asked Policeman Yu Li-ti whether or not he had been a foreigner escorted by gendarmes on June 1 or 2. He said he had not."

British

"Yan Yuk-ti, policeman, [illegible] to the first examination in Changsha who said he had seen a foreigner wearing long trousers with very [illegible] stripes being taken along the street by the military police from the station. He [illegible] his face, and then he had been put on a train going west just after 1 o'clock on June 2."

Chinese

"We then consulted of the shop-keeper at Changsha who said that no foreigner had been in him lately to have his photograph taken."

British

"It is [illegible] that a photographer [illegible] had been [illegible] to show his [illegible] to the owner of the shop said he had the photograph of the photograph as the negative had been taken away by the military police."

Chinese

No Chinese statement.

British

Another statement in Changsha stated that a foreigner had been arrested and had given his nationality as Russian.

Chinese

No Chinese statement.

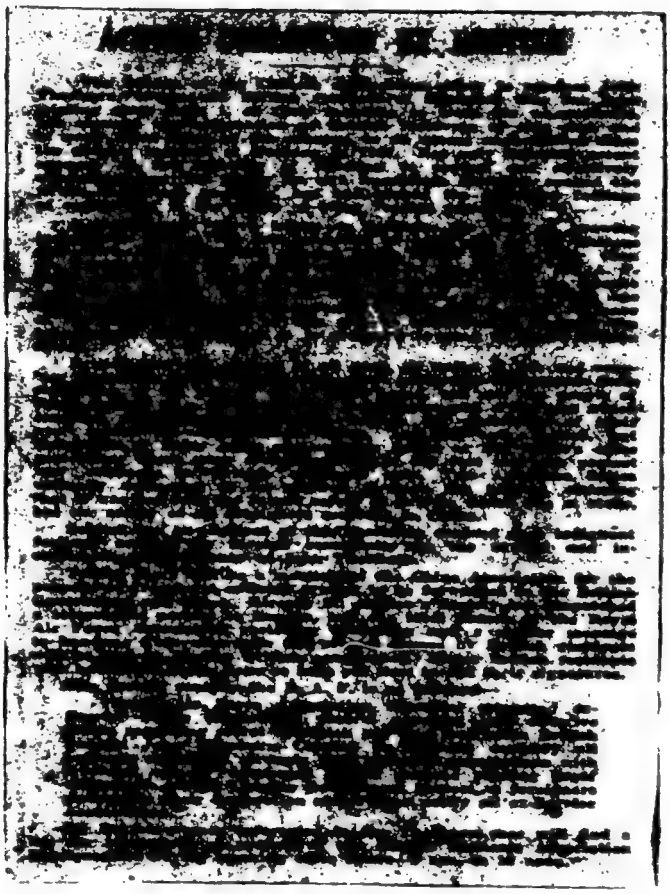
* * *

British

"The wife of the proprietor of the Tsung An-ting dry goods store at Changsha, who said that about 2 p.m. on June 1, a young foreigner whom she identified from a photograph as Tiedemann, came to her shop and made a small purchase. He was wearing a pair of dark blue trousers with red lines down the outside seam. For the following day, she saw the same foreigner with his hands tied behind his back in the custody of the military police and she said he had been put on a train."

1881

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1931



THE SHANGHAI SUNDAY TIMES, JULY 19, 1931

Shanghai Times

泰晤士報（星期刊）

PRICE TWENTY CENTS

CHINESE AUTHORITIES DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF MISSING BRITISH SUBJECT THORBURN

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ST. PETER'S, ROME

Powerful Bomb Carried Out Of Church Before Heavy Explosion

SMASHES WINDOWS IN VATICAN GALLERY

ROME, July 17.—The discovery of a powerful bomb in St. Peter's, the most sacred Catholic church, has caused a tremendous sensation inasmuch as according to experts its explosion in any case would have seriously damaged the famous cupola of the basilica, which was designed by Michel Angelo, even if a still greater catastrophe had been averted.

The bomb was found after the basilica had been closed to the public. It was wrapped in paper in a confessional directly beneath the cupola and close to the monument of Pope Benedict XV. It exploded spontaneously at two o'clock this morning at an isolated spot in the Vatican gardens whither it had been removed after its discovery by Papal guards.

The force of the explosion, which was heard all over Rome, awakened the Pope from his sleep and smashed a number of windows in the Vatican's picture gallery, but thanks to the precautions taken did no further damage. Clues as to the perpetrators of this barbarous attempt to destroy one of the world's most famous and sacred buildings have not yet been found, though the city is full of contradictory rumours, circles close to the Italian Government, which immediately ordered a strict investigation, claiming that it must have been the work of anti-Fascists who wanted to arouse [illegible] between the Vatican and the Quirinal.—Transocean-Kuo Min.

Official Statement From Foreign Office At Nanking Says He Was Not Arrested

INVESTIGATION AT SOOCHOW AND QUINSAN BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRODUCES NOTHING BUT REPEATED DENIALS

REMARKABLE CONTRADICTIONS FROM WITNESSES IN SECOND ENQUIRY

Stationmaster, Chinese Porters, Constable And Residents Who Previously Admitted Seeing Bound Foreigner, Now Deny Statements

In an official statement from the Foreign Office of the Nanking Government to the British Consul-General in Shanghai, the results of the Chinese investigation into the disappearance of John Thorburn, 19-year-old British resident of Shanghai, were communicated yesterday morning. It is denied that Thorburn, or any other foreigner, was arrested by the Gendarmerie, or that any foreigner was concerned in the shooting incident in the vicinity of Quinsan on June 1. Allegations that any foreigner had been imprisoned, wounded or beaten, either at Quinsan or Soochow, are denied by the Chinese officials. All knowledge of the whereabouts of John Thorburn are also firmly denied.

The statement from Nanking is, in effect, a general contradiction of the statements previously made to Mr. A. L. Scott, British Vice-Consul, by witnesses examined by him both at Quinsan and Soochow. These witnesses had stated that they had seen a foreigner answering Thorburn's description under arrest at Quinsan and Soochow. At the latter place he was led through the streets with his hands tied behind his back and was subsequently tied to a tree and publicly beaten.

John Thorburn disappeared somewhere along the Shanghai-Nanking railway line between Quinsan and Soochow on June 1. Since that date he has not been found. Reports from various sources indicated that he had been arrested by Chinese military police in the vicinity of Quinsan. All efforts to trace him proved fruitless and the Nanking Government, through the British Minister, Sir Miles Lampson, was asked to conduct an investigation into this mysterious disappearance. The result of the investigation by [illegible] officials is as follows:

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WERE ALL THESE PEOPLE LYING?

The following points, taken from statements to British Consular investigators by Chinese at Soochow and Quinsan, are of great importance in the Thorburn investigation and compel close attention. Before the Chinese investigation began, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was informed in writing of the substance of the evidence in the hands of the British authorities. The following points were particularly stressed:

1.—Sia Zui-soong, "ba tsang" of the 4th Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Military Police spoke of the shooting incident and the arrest of a foreigner, who was taken to Quinsan, where he was detained until the afternoon of June 2, when he was removed under escort.

2.—The wife of the proprietor of the Tsang Ah-sing dry goods store at Quinsan stated that at about 4 p.m. on June 1, a young foreigner, whom she identified from a photograph as Thorburn, went to her shop and made a small purchase. He was wearing a pair of dark blue trousers with red lines down the side of each leg. On the following day she saw the same foreigner with his hands tied behind his back in the custody of the Military Police. She said he was put on a train.

3.—A policeman named You Loh-li, attached to the 1st Sub-Station in Quinsan, said he had seen a foreigner wearing long trousers with two red stripes, being taken along the street by the Military Police with his hands tied behind his back. He was put on a train going west just after 1 o'clock on June 2.

4.—Another policeman in Quinsan gave corroborative evidence and stated that the foreigner had given his nationality as English.

5.—When questioned, the stationmaster at Quinsan said that a foreigner had been put on the train going westward just after 1 p.m. on June 2. He was in the custody of a party of Military Police. He also stated that the foreigner had an inscription on his handkerchief and that he actually wrote the words "Sea Scout Troop" on one of the posts of the station platform. The words were still there on June 10 and were seen on that date by Mr. Scott, British Vice-Consul. He was noticed examining them, but when he returned to the station shortly afterwards they had been carefully erased.

6.—The Li-li Photograph Shop in Quinsan when visited revealed further evidence. Here it was learned that a photograph of the foreigner had been taken, shortly after his arrest, but the owner of the shop had no copy of the photograph as the negative had been taken away by the Military Police.

7.—Two porters at the Soochow Railway Station, No.'s 93 and 105, stated they saw the foreigner on the afternoon of June 2 being sent under a Military Police escort to the Military Headquarters.

WERE ALL THESE PEOPLE LYING?

Amateur Bath-House Racketeer Finally Lands In Gaol

Ingenuity, not modesty, was the chief characteristic of Yang, a bath-house thief now "doing time" in the Municipal guest-house on Ward Road, according to the evidence submitted by aggrieved witnesses appearing at Yang's trial.

Apparently Saturday night is "bath night" the world over for those not particularly addicted to self-ablution. At any rate Saturday night was Yang's big night of the week and he made it a practice of visiting a bath-house on Avenue Edward VII where the clientele was more dressy than at most other places. Subsequent events proved that Yang was more interested in the habiliments of his fellow-bathers than in his own cleansing.

For instance, a week ago he suddenly let out a first-class bath-house war-whoop and called for the Riot Squad, the Ambulance Corps, S.V.C. and Chapei Gendarmerie, declaring to an excited multitude that some one had stolen his pants.

He got no satisfaction from the proprietor. But when that worthy's back was turned Yang grabbed a spare pair of the proprietor's and skipped into the street with only a shirt on.

The following Saturday he tried the same trick at another bath-house, this time calling for everybody's help except that of the Pootung Protection Corps. Then, as the excitement commenced to die down, he seized a nifty silk jacket and hit out for the highway with hue and cry after him. This time he was caught.

On trial Yang stated that the bath-house proprietor merely had a grudge against him for using too much soap. In fact, said Yang, he had once hit him over head with a wooden bucket for using too much.

This the proprietor denied, but went one better by telling the court that the jacket stolen had contained $500. Th years for Yang.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORT OF ENQUIRY

With regard to the disappearance without trace of the British resident of Shanghai, Thorburn, it is on record that repeated letters have been received from the British Consul-General at Nanking requesting investigation; also that the replies of the various Departments concerned have been communicated to the British Consul-General. Further, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of War each sent an official of their respective Ministries to conduct a joint and strict investigation. These two officials have now reported as follows:

In pursuance of our instructions, we at once left for Soochow where we first visited the headquarters of the First Regiment of Gendarmerie occupying the Lao Wu T'uan Barracks. We were informed by the Colonel of the said Regiment that the Regiment certainly had not arrested any foreigner. As regards the matter of the wounding by shooting of two gendarmes at Weiting near Kunshan (Quinsan), the bandits had made good their escape owing to the passing of a train (between the combatants). Not only was no foreigner arrested on that occasion, but no Chinese was captured. We, thereupon, inspected the regimental gaol, where we found only two Chinese prisoners. Both were gendarmes. There was no foreigner in the gaol. We then inspected the military goal. There were four prisons and one prison-hospital and three workshops. We examined them all, one after another, and found that they contained no foreigner.

SOOCHOW MAGISTRATE'S DENIAL

We then went to the District Magistracy of Wuhsien (Soochow). We were informed that on receipt of instructions from the Ministry ordering an investigation, the Magistrate at once wrote to the Headquarters of the First Regiment of Gendarmerie and also ordered the Commissioner of Police to investigate and report. The Gendarmerie headquarters replied that no foreigner whatever had been arrested. The Commissioner of Police reported that he had made investigations and found that there was no truth in the allegation that a foreigner had been arrested.

We then proceeded to the Soochow Railway Station where we interviewed the stationmaster and the assistant stationmaster, and asked them whether on or about the 2nd of June they had seen on the station premises a party of gendarmes guarding a foreigner. They replied that they were very busily engaged every day in the performance of their duties and did not know whether gendarmes had or had not brought a foreign prisoner to the station. Recently Mr. Scott, a British Vice-Consul, had visited the station and inter-

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1931

Thorburn Case Goes Before Public Of Britain

St. Andrew's Society Of Shanghai Sends Telegram To Mr. Ramsay MacDonald Deploring Ineffective Policy; Home Newspapers Informed

Intervention by the British Government for the release of John Thorburn, 19-year-old British subject alleged to be in the hands of Chinese military authorities for a period now exceeding six weeks, is being sought by the Shanghai branch of St. Andrew's Society, which has interested itself in the affair for humane and national reasons.

A telegram to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, British Prime Minister, was dispatched from Shanghai by the Society yesterday, as follows:

> "John Thorburn, British subject, held six weeks without trial near Nanking by Chinese authorities. Tortured, mutilated or dead. Known to have been alive three weeks ago. Request for Sino-British investigation refused. St. Andrew's Society of Shanghai deplores ineffective policy of Foreign Office and calls for strong, definite action.
>
> "Signed, Committee of St. Andrews Society, S'hai."

Arrangements have also been made to issue this telegram through Reuter's Agency to newspapers at Home for the purpose of calling attention to the plight of young Thorburn whose fate, like his exact whereabouts, continue to remain a mystery.

Thorburn disappeared from his home, 315 Rue Bourgeat, French Concession, on June 1.

Movements Traced

Evidence collected since his disappearance by Consular officials, plain-clothes policemen, and independent investigators points to his having headed in the direction of Nanking, following the railway route. He is believed to have got into difficulties with some Chinese soldiers as a result of a shooting episode along the railway embankment near Quinsan, and to have been taken prisoner and removed to Soochow military barracks.

It has been reported that he was transferred elsewhere, and has been held prisoner since.

Corroborated testimony has also been collected by British Consular officers investigating on the spot that Thorburn was tied to a tree and beaten in the presence of a number of Soochow villagers, while an uncorroborated report was received to the effect that one of his soldier guards stabbed him with a bayonet.

All but definite proof of Thorburn having been held in prison at Soochow was collected by Mr. A. Scott, British Vice-Consul at Shanghai, who remained for over a week in Soochow conducting an exhaustive inquiry. But although the British official returned satisfied that Thorburn was in the hands of the military, he could not trace his whereabouts.

Minister Intervenes

He gathered sufficient evidence however, to prompt the British Minister to China, Sir Miles Lampson, to send a representative to Nanking with a request for an official investigation.

This representative, Mr. Frank Aveling, called upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Nanking, who deputed a representative from the Ministry and another from the Ministry of War to proceed to Soochow and investigate the reports furnished by the British authorities. But Mr. Aveling's attendance at the investigation was refused.

At the present time the Nanking Government representatives are still conducting their inquiry at Soochow, while Mr. Aveling and the British authorities await their report. So far, the Chinese have been more than two weeks on their task, but not a word as to their movements or discoveries, if any, has been received by the British authorities to date.

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THE CHINA PRESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1931

British Authorities Laud Press Findings In Thorburn Mystery

Copy Of Reporter's Story Forwarded To Nanking As Material Evidence For Investigators; Father Of Youth Appreciates Paper's Actio

Shanghai yesterday acclaimed The China Press in vestigation of the Thorburn disappearance as a valuable ste toward the solution of the mystery and as added impet to official inquiries now being carried out. Among those wh recognized the importance of disclosures made in yesterday' China Press, as a result of the three day investigation, wer Mr. M. Hay Thorburn, father of the 19-year-old Britishe last seen in Shanghai on June 1, and the British superinten ing consul, Mr. A. D. Blackburn.

Mr. Blackburn, yesterday sent a copy of the China Press carrying intimate disclosures on the disappearance of John Hay Thorburn, 19, believed to have been detained for five weeks by Chinese military authorities, to the British Legation at Nanking.

Disclosures Significant

Mr. Blackburn told a China Press representative that the news story included details of a significant nature. He said that previous information gained by consular investigators and others was largely given by second and third parties. Practically all the testimony introduced into the China Press account of the alleged capture and detention of a foreigner by Chinese soldiers was given by Soochow residents who claimed to actually have seen the young man in the custody of soldiers. More than 50 witnesses were interviewed during the paper's three-day investigation.

Mr. Blackburn said that besides the quantity of added information included in the Press report, certain details differed from those collected by the British office. The consul had learned that the First Battalion held the young man, while the Press gained information from soldiers and townspeople that he was detained at the second Battalion Camp. Eye witnesses also denied the report received by British authorities to the effect that the boy had been mutilated.

Press Probe Welcome

The consular official said that the Nanking government had sent representatives of the War and Fo eign Affairs Ministries to co duct a month's investigation of t case. One week has passed. R ports of their findings will be ma public at the end of the mont

Mr. Blackburn said that the a tion taken by the China Press w especially welcome inasmuch it came at a time when the han of the British authorities we practically tied. He said that t Chinese government at Nanking h not definitely forbidden a Brit investigation of the Thorburn disappearance, but that when it was asked to sanction the sending of Mr. Aveling to represent the British government in the inquiry, the Chinese responded that they could conduct their own investigation. Mr. Blackburn said there is no objection to an informal British investigation, but the above response is in effect a refusal to allow a foreign representative to sit with them in consideration of evidence on the Thorburn case. The British government can only await developments brought about by the Chinese investigation, he declared.

Father Appreciative

Mr. Thorburn expressed his appreciation of the step taken by the China Press toward determining the fate of his son. He said that he had not yet given up hope that his son would be returned to him, and that the account in the China Press substantiated belief of his that his son was still alive.

"I greatly appreciate the action of the China Press in initiating an

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1931

Thorburn Now Missing 37 Days; Official "Search" Fruitless

The whereabouts of John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton who disappeared on June 1 after setting out in the direction of Quinsan, are still definitely unknown to British Consular authorities and everyone else desirous of locating him, it was learned during inquiries yesterday.

It is significant, however, that although the committee of inquiry sent to Soochow by the Nanking Government at the request of the British Minister to China have been investigating for more than a week, they have not, so far, communicated to the British authorities any information whatsoever. According to their plans, they will continue to investigate for another three weeks, then return to Nanking and render their report

In the meantime Mr. Frank Aveling, personal representative of H. M. Minister, sent to Nanking to press for this inquiry, is still at Nanking, forbidden to join the Nanking investigators at Soochow.

Whether Thorburn is being held at Soochow, Lion Hill or anywhere else is not the real issue. It has been reported that he is now at Nanking and this report is being looked into, local British authorities stated yesterday.

Wherever Thorburn may be now cannot alter the evidence that he, or someone so like him as to satisfy the most sceptical, was seen in custody of Chinese soldiers at Soochow on or about the time of his disappearance.

This has been borne out, not by one witness, but by scores of witnesses, including railway officials, plain villagers and even soldiers themselves. Responsible British officials collected this testimony.

At Nanking or Soochow, wounded or not, guilty of the Quinsan shooting or not, the British authorities are satisfied that Thorburn was in the hands of the military. Their only doubt at present is where he may be found at this time.

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THE NORTH-CHINA SUNDAY NEWS, JULY 5, 1931

THE THORBURN MYSTERY

Disappearance Five Weeks Ago To-morrow

NO RESULTS FROM INVESTIGATIONS

To-morrow morning, July 6, there will have elapsed five weeks since Mr. John Hay Thorburn disappeared so mysteriously, and also one week will have elapsed since the National Government commenced its inquiry into his disappearance. So far official Chinese investigations have produced no result, despite the fact that the consular authorities have no doubt that Mr. Thorburn is, or has been, in Soochow or its vicinity.

Special pressure was brought to bear on the Nanking authorities by Mr. Aveling, H.M. Minister's personal representative, recently, and on July 27 he was informed by Dr. C. T. Wang, Minister for Foreign Affairs, that a representative of his ministry had already left for Soochow and that a representative of the Ministry of War was also leaving, and that official inquiries were to commence early last week. No statement has been made regarding the progress of their inquiries.

Prior to this the military police authorities at Soochow had persistently denied that they had any foreigner in custody. Mr. Thorburn left Shanghai on June 1, and on that morning a young foreigner, corresponding to him and wearing garments corresponding to those Mr. Thorburn had taken from home, was seen by Chinese in Qutnsan.

The Shooting Incident

That night, about 10 p.m., a shooting affair occurred along the railway line near Weiting, when a man originally described as a foreigner and believed to be a Russian is alleged to have shot and wounded two military police, who subsequently died in hospital in Shanghai. The next morning an alleged Russian was arrested as grave suspicion was attached to him, and taken to the headquarters of the military police in Soochow.

In a statement issued by H.M. Consulate-General and published in the "North-China Sunday News" two weeks ago the following passage occurs: "The incidence in dates strongly suggests that the military authorities immediately a[illegible] these inter[illegible] proceed to [illegible]. The [illegible] left little [illegible] who had [illegible] connec[illegible] have [illegible] by [illegible] that [illegible] or [illegible]

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1931

STRANGE HAPPENINGS AT SOOCHOW

Aveling Held At Arm's Length; Thorburn Is Moved?

CHINESE CONDUCTING INQUIRY ALONE

For some reason best known to themselves, the Soochow military authorities are understood to have transferred John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton last seen alive by his parents on May 31, from the military prison at Soochow to other dingy quarters at Shih Tin Shan, or Stone Hill, about an hour and a half's walk from Soochow.

The transfer was accomplished nearly two weeks ago, according to information reaching the British consular authorities here. Although the report is not quite as reliable as others which have been received by the British authorities, it nonetheless has more than a probability of truth in it, as borne out by supporting evidence of a circumstantial nature.

The reason for the transfer, if transfer there actually has been, is undoubtedly the institution of an inquiry, supposedly of a vigorous nature, by the Nanking Government acting under pressure applied by the British Legation.

This inquiry has already begun but the information as to the manner of its commencement is alone suspicious in character as the Chinese military authorities have refused permission to Mr. Frank Aveling, British Legation representative on the spot under instructions from Sir Miles Lampson, to accompany the committee of inquiry during the course of their investigations.

On June 27 representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of War at Nanking left for Soochow in connection with this inquiry, Mr. Aveling was informed. They had strict instructions to investigate thoroughly the reports in circulation about Thorburn being under detention by the military authorities at Soochow.

At the same time as this information was conveyed to Mr. Aveling he was politely told that his association with the Government's investigators was not desired, for the reason already stated.

"We are, in fact, just as anxious to clear up this affair as you are," Mr. Aveling was told. That, and no more.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1931

THORBURN MYSTERY STILL UNSOLVED

British Authorities Unable To Make Statement

There have been no developments in what has come to be known locally as the "Thorburn mystery," according to Mr. A. D. Blackburn, Superintending Consul, of H.B.M. Consulate-General.

The inquiry started by Mr. Frank Aveling, personal representative of Sir Miles Lampson, H. M. Minister to China, is still in progress, according to Mr. Blackburn, who was unable, however, to disclose the nature of any progress made to date by Mr. Aveling.

The despatch to Soochow of Mr. Aveling, it will be recalled, followed closely upon the release to the press of Shanghai by the British Consulate of an official statement of the discoveries made by British Vice-Consul A. L. Scott, specially sent to Soochow to discover what had become of John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton believed to have fallen into hands of the Soochow military authorities.

Mr. Scott's inquiries pointed strongly to Thorburn being held a prisoner at Soochow and on the strength of this information, which was wirelessed to H. M. Minister in Peiping, Mr. Aveling was sent to press the Nanking Government for an immediate official investigation, a joint Sino-British Commission of Inquiry being suggested.

Mr. Aveling has already discussed the matter with Dr. C. T. Wang, Minister for Foreign Affairs, pressing for an immediate and full investigation. That was in the early part of last week. Since then, no further information has been vouchsafed by the local British consular authorities.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1931

THORBURN INQUIRY TO BE PRESSED

Mr. F. Aveling Calls Upon Dr. C. T. Wang At Nanking

In connection with the alleged detention of John Thorburn, 19-year-old British subject, by the Soochow military authorities, it is understood that Mr. F. Aveling, representing Sir Miles Lampson, H. M. Minister to China, has already seen Dr. C. T. Wang, Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and is pressing for an immediate inquiry.

Thorburn has been missing from his home since June 1, and the local British consular authorities have collected sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption that the missing Briton is being held a prisoner in a Soochow military prison and is, moreover, in bad physical condition at the present time.

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Extract for file 10.6.31.

SHOOTING OF RAILWAY POLICE BY FOREIGNER.

The Shun Pao publishes the following correspondence from Soochow:-

In connection with the recent killing of one and wounding of two of a group of military police while patrolling the railway line between Quinsan and Tsing Koo and the subsequent arrest and detention of a foreigner in the Military Police Headquarters at Soochow, Mr. "Ma Ko To" ( ), the British Vice-Consul in Shanghai, yesterday (June 9) went to Soochow and enquired of the Union Government whether the arrested person was a British subject or not, as an Englishman named "Wei Lin Tai Ma" ( ), age 18, was missing from Shanghai. He was informed by Magistrate Wang that he was awaiting instructions from the Military Police Headquarters. Magistrate Wang promised to notify Mr. "Ma Ko To" as soon as instructions were received. The British Vice-Consul returned to Shanghai the same night.

Extract for file. 19.6.

ATTACKS OF MILITARY POLICE BY FOREIGNERS.

The Sin Wan Pao publishes the following letter from the Woosung-Shanghai Garrison Commissioner's Headquarters:-

The report published by your paper on the killing of members of the Military Police near Taing Kyi Railway Station on the night of June 1 does not correspond with the facts. We have received a letter from the Military Police reading as follows:-

"On the night of June 1 a squad of Military Police were patrolling about 3 li to the west of the Taing Kyi Railway Station, suddenly some desperadoes opened fire on them and in consequence 8 members were wounded. When the remaining force was in pursuit of the desperadoes, an express train passed and eventually separated the police and the desperadoes who, availing themselves of the opportunity, made good their escape. The police then made a thorough search but no arrests were made. The information published by various newspapers after this occurrence is mostly untrue and the report regarding the arrest of a foreigner is liable to give rise to a misunderstanding".

DISAPPEARANCE OF JOHN THORBURN

Possibility Of Official Statement By British Consul

An official statement upon the Thorburn mystery is likely to be forthcoming from the British Consular authorities within the next 24 hours, "The Shanghai Times" was informed yesterday, providing certain necessary formalities at present in motion are completed to the satisfaction of the authorities concerned.

The British Consular authorities, who have been making the fullest possible investigation into this affair in the face of many obstacles placed in their path, it is believed, by officials, outside the Settlement have reached the conclusion that the situation demands the full light of publicity and permission of the British Minister at Peiping is being sought for that purpose.

John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton, left his home on June 1 with an obscure intention and wandered along the Shanghai-Nanking railway line in the direction of Quinsan. There, it is believed, he got himself into some sort of trouble with a party of Chinese soldiers whom he met, and there is strong evidence that he was subsequently arrested and taken to Soochow.

Definite denial of his arrest or detention has been given repeatedly by Chinese military officials at Soochow, notwithstanding much evidence to the contrary collected by British Consular officials and others who have carried out investigations on the spot.

Rumours of foul play have been in circulation and the British Consular authorities here are believed to be in possession of certain information which may eventually lead to the exchange of official notes with the Nanking Government.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1931

HOPE FOR THORBURN VANISHING

Conspiracy Of Silence At Soochow Proves Effective

Little hope is held out by the British consular authorities of tracing the whereabouts of John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton, who mysteriously disappeared from his home on the night of May 31-June 1. Practically every possible avenue of inquiry has been thoroughly investigated, and although the evidence that Torburn fell into Chinese military hands continues to pile up, categorical denials that he did so, likewise continue to be received from Chinese sources.

For more than a week, Mr. A. L. Scott, British Vice-Consul, has been conducting an investigation at Soochow, but little or no light on the mystery has resulted. If anything, the mystery has deepened.

The past 24 hours brought to light one somewhat significant piece of information, however. It was the rumour that the First Regiment stationed at Soochow had been transferred to Kiangsi. It was a party of soldiers from this regiment, it is alleged, who were concerned in the shooting affair near Quinsan on or about June 2, which other rumours connected with the missing man Thorburn.

Notwithstanding the official denials issued by the Soochow military and judicial authorities that any foreigner had been concerned or arrested in connection with that incident, there is very strong evidence that a foreigner resembling young Thorburn was arrested by the Soochow military authorities and is being detained somewhere in Soochow. There is the alternative theory, unconfirmed rumours of which have already been in circulation in Shanghai, that young Thorburn was shot, but whether during the affair with the soldiers or in consequence of his part in that affair, may never be known.

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THE THORBURN MYSTERY

Fate of Missing Briton Still Unknown

BELIEVED TAKEN TO SOOCHOW

Still no news has reached Shanghai of the whereabouts of Mr. John Thorburn, the young nineteen-year old Englishman who disappeared from home on June 1, was seen walking along the Shanghai Nanking Railway in the neighbourhood of Quinsan station and, apparently, has completely vanished.

Inquiries set on foot by the British authorities have been, so far, fruitless. Mr. A. L. Scott, who has been investigating the affair at Soochow, has returned to Shanghai. It is understood that the local Chinese officials have received no report either of Mr. Thorburn or of any incident connecting him with the affray in which two Chinese soldiers were wounded, one of them mortally. In fact, the statements of the Chinese officials as recorded in the "North-China Daily News" on Monday have not been substantially varied.

The fact remains that Mr. Thorburn has not been located. It is moreover ascertained, from reports reaching this office, that a foreigner, answering to his description, was seen in custody and so far as can be judged, was taken to Soochow. The denials of the local authorities are therefore taken to be based on information incompletely seized of the facts.

Obviously the matter cannot rest there. Mr. Thorburn's disappearance is seriously exercising the minds of his parents. The British authorities have made most careful investigations and it is probable that they will before long have to take the matter up formally with the Chinese Government. It is expected that a full statement of the facts as they have been elicited will be framed and representations made through the proper channels for steps to be taken in order to clear up the mystery.

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Mr. Thorburn's Fate

Whatever may be the conditions in the interior of China, it is very difficult to believe that a young foreigner can disappear into the blue within a few miles of Shanghai, without there being any trace of his whereabouts. It is still more difficult to believe in the face of the known facts about Mr. Thorburn's adventure. It is established that he was possessed of some idea of travelling on foot into China. It is admitted that he was seen walking on the railway line between Shanghai and Quinsan. There is a sufficient amount of cumulative evidence, circumstantial and otherwise to justify the theory that he was taken into custody by some Chinese who escorted him to Soochow. The time factor and, other personal details, gave grounds for the strongest presumption that he was in some way or another involved in the incident which led to the arrival at Shanghai of two wounded Chinese soldiers, one of whom subsequently died. Yet in spite of the assiduous inquiries of the British authorities, the information from official Chinese sources at Soochow fails entirely to support these deductions. That would not arouse comment if the Soochow officials could produce evidence of Mr. Thorburn's whereabouts. They apparently cannot. It would seem that the reports which they have received from their subordinates are defective. The matter is hardly likely to be allowed to rest there. It is to be hoped therefore that more insistent inquiries will be made through such channels as will produce reliable and reputable information on the subject.

Extract from the Morning Translation of

June 15, 1931.

Shooting of two Military Policeman by Foreigner

The Sin Wan Pao published the following letter from the First Regiment Military Police on June 14 : -

"Re the shooting of two military police by desperadoes on the night of June 1 while patrolling near Tsing Nee ( ). On the night in question a thick fog set in and nothing could be seen at close range. When the military police patrol of this Regiment reached a place about 3 li to the west of the Tsing Nee Railway Station, some desperadoes suddenly opened fire on them and consequently two policemen were wounded . While the remaining police were in pursuit of the desperadoes, an express train passed and separated the police and the desperadoes, who, availing themselves of the opportunity, made good their escape. The police made a thorough search but made no arrests. These are the true facts of the case. The information published by various newspapers is mostly untrue; moreover, the report of the arrest of a foreigner is entirely groundless and it has incurred suspicion on the part of foreigners. For fear that the truth may still not be known to the public, we hereby request that a correction be published."

BRITISH SUBJECT ALLEGED MISSING.

The Pao Pao, a mosquito paper, publishes the following article:-

Extract for file 16 6

The British Consulate at Nanking received a letter from the British Consulate in Shanghai the day before yesterday stating that a British subject, resident of Shanghai named "Ma S Ue" (?), age 18, surreptitiously left his home at the end of May, taking with him a pistol. This man is very quick tempered. In a letter left by him he wrote that he desired to enroll with the Chinese army to suppress the Communists. It is not known whether he has reached Nanking or has joined the Chinese army. He is not in possession of a passport nor a pistol license. The British Consulate at Nanking have transmitted the original letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who in turn requested the Nanking Garrison Commissioner to make investigations.

THE CHINA PRESS, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1931

New Evidence In Hands Of British In Thorburn Case

Suspicion Persists That Youth Was Taken By Soochow Police

Despite the fact that the Soochow magistrate and gendarmerie officer are still strongly denying that they have Mr. John Thorburn, 19-year-old Briton who has been missing from Shanghai since June 1, in their custody, British consular officials here have now more reason than ever to believe their statements untruthful, it was declared yesterday.

The superintending consul, Mr. A. D. Blackburn, informed a representative of The China Press yesterday that local British authorities do not actually know the exact whereabouts of the missing youth but they are positive he is in Soochow, in which city Mr. A. L. Scott, vice-consul in the Chinese Affairs office, is continuing his investigations.

Thorburn Seen In Soochow

Whether young Thorburn is alive or dead is not known. British investigations have been carried out ever since the youth's mysterious disappearance, from his father's house, 315 Rue Bourgeat, on June 1, was reported. As a city-wide search was made for him here without success, the hunt was spread further afield.

The first important clue obtained was the statement of the station master of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway's Quinsan station. This official claimed to have seen a foreigner, answering exactly Thorburn's description, in the custody of Chinese gendarmerie in Quinsan. Now, the number of people who have been Thorburn in the gendarmerie's hands have swelled considerably for Mr. Scott has located a few persons who actually saw Thorburn, still in the hands of Chinese military, in Soochow.

Cleared Of Shooting

Mr. Blackburn personally thinks the lad is in Soochow and that the Chinese authorities, for some reason of their own, are deliberately hiding his whereabouts.

At first it was believed that Thorburn was connected in some

New Evidence In Hands Of British In Thorburn Case

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

manner with the strange shooting affray on the railroad track in which two Chinese gendarmes received fatal wounds and have since died from them. This incident happened on the night of June 2, a day after Thorburn disappeared from his home in Shanghai.

Thorburn Cleared Of Charge

However, the commanding officers of the two gendarmerie divisions in the Soochow district informed Mr. Scott that no foreigner was involved in the case, their men being wounded by bandits. British authorities here, knowing that Thorburn was armed with a .45 caliber Shanghai Volunteer Corps revolver, were at first afraid the youth had been arrested in connection with the shooting and dealt with by the Chinese themselves.

The statements of the Chinese officers clear Thorburn of a particularly serious situation and now allow the youth's consular authorities to have a clearer field to work upon for his recovery irrespective whether he is dead or alive.

Keen On Outdoor Life

Young Thorburn was a quiet lad, very keen on all outdoor sports and life in general. An enthusiastic hockey player during the winter months, he is in the habit of devoting most of his time in summer to tennis or on the river. He was a Sea Scout and a live member of the Drysdale Amateur Dramatic Club. In 1928, then a boy of 17, Thorburn started training, seriously to train for the International Walking Competition with the English team. After two weeks of gruelling work he was forced to abandon his idea of entering for the race as his legs gave out on him. Thorburn was a lad with a great amount of "go" in him and very popular in the younger set here.

The missing youth was supposed to have joined a boating party up at Hepli the day before he disappeared. Instead of doing so, however, he spent the day in Shanghai playing tennis at the Race Course in the afternoon and returning to his father's house to sleep that night. He left the following day after leaving a note to his father merely saying he was going up country

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1931

NO LIGHT ON THORBURN MYSTERY

Vice-Consul Scott Fails To Return From Soochow

Officially, there have been no new developments in what has come to be known as the "Thorburn Mystery," which concerns the disappearance on the night of May 31—June 1 of 19-year-old John Thorburn, of 315, Rue Bourgeat, who left his home for an uncertain destination and has not been heard of since.

Some light on the mystery was expected yesterday with the return to Shanghai from Soochow of Mr. A. L. Scott, British Vice-Consul, who went to Soochow early last week in an effort to discover anything which might lead to the solution of the mystery. The missing youth is a British subject.

Inquiries made yesterday found Mr. Scott still at Soochow and his postponed return might possibly be attributed to his having discovered something new in connection with the case, as he was expected to return last Saturday.

One of the most important developments in the case has been the denial by Chinese military authorities that the Quinsan shooting incident of nearly two weeks ago, in which three Chinese gendarmes lost their lives, in any way concerned foreigners. It was feared that Thorburn had, in some way, become embroiled in an argument with Chinese soldiers and had made use of a pistol he is alleged to have taken away with him on May 31.

However, the Chinese declare not only that no foreigner was mixed up in that affair but also that they have no foreigner in custody at the present time, this notwithstanding considerable evidence to the contrary collected at Soochow, Quinsan and other points in that vicinity.

Aug 10/4

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The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Monday, June 15, 1931

Mystery Deepens In Thorburn Case

Young Britisher Lost In Uplands May Be Dead

Is young John Thorburn, British subject, dead or alive and is he, if alive, being detained by the Soochow authorities?

These questions today are puzzling the local British authorities as the investigation into the whereabouts of the young man, ordered by Sir Miles Lampson, British Minister to China, continues at Soochow and Quinsan.

Of the following the British consulate general here is almost certain:

Left Home May 31

Thorburn, who is 19 years of age, left his home here on May 31, leaving a note in which he informed his father that he was "going upcountry."

Thorburn was armed, carrying a loaded pistol and was wearing attire of the machine gun company, Shanghai Volunteer Corps, of which he is a member, but which would be better suited for dress parade.

Seen In Custody

On June 2, according to definite information received by the British consulate general from disinterested witnesses, the young man was seen in the custody of the gendarmerie near Quinsan.

The British authorities here, according to Mr. A. D. Blackburn, superintending consul, have reason to believe that Thorburn was seized by the gendarmerie in connection with the shooting of two soldiers on the railway line near Quinsan on the night of June 1.

Taken To Soochow

The consulate general also has reason to believe that the youth was taken to Soochow, where the headquarters of the gendarmerie are located, and that he either is dead or is badly injured and is being held by the gendarmerie.

After the strange disappearance of the youth had been reported to the consulate general and reported in turn to the British Minister, Mr. A. L. Scott, vice-consul of the Chinese Affairs Department, was sent to Soochow and Quinsan to conduct an investigation. At Quinsan Mr. Scott, who still is at Soochow, ascertained from a responsible person that the young man had been seen in the custody of the gendarmerie.

Chinese Denials

Since that time the Chinese authorities at both Quinsan and Soochow stoutly have denied that Thorburn had been or is in custody, or that any foreigner had been connected with the fatal shooting of the two soldiers.

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SHOOTING OF TWO MILITARY POLICEMEN BY BANDITS.

The Min Wan Pao published the following letter from the First Regiment Military Police on June 14:-

"Re the shooting of two military police by desperadoes on the night of June 1 while patrolling near Tsing Hoo ( ). On the night in question a thick fog set in and nothing could be seen at close range. When the military police patrol of this Regiment reached a place about 3 li to the west of the Tsing Hoo Railway Station,

June 16, 1931. Morning Translation

MISCELLANEOUS

some desperadoes suddenly opened fire on them and consequently two policemen were wounded. While the remaining police were in pursuit of the desperadoes, an express train passed and separated the police and the desperadoes, who, availing themselves of the opportunity, made good their escape. The police made a thorough search but made no arrests. These are the true facts of the case. The information published by various newspapers is mostly untrue; moreover the report of the arrest of a foreigner is entirely groundless and it has incurred suspicion on the part of foreigners. For fear that the truth may still not be known to the public, we hereby request that a correction be published".

S. Mt. 15.6.31

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An English Youth Missing.

The China Times publishes the following report:-

A local English youth named Thorburn, age 19, residing at No. 215 Rue Bourgent, has been missing since June 1 and so far his whereabouts are not known. On the day previous to his being reported missing, Thorburn planned to proceed to Nanli, but later he abandoned the idea and went to the Race Course to play tennis. In the evening he returned home and went to bed. According to public opinion, he proceeded to Quinsan by train on the night of June 2, thence planned to walk to Nanli. He has not been seen since June 2, and on the night of June 2 the case of the shooting of two military policemen by a foreigner at Waiting Railway Station took place. According to press reports, the guilty man was a Russian, but it was suspected that it might be Thorburn. Officials of the local British Consulate-General stated that the Station Master at Quinsan had seen a foreign youth arrested and detained by the military police and that his attire quite resembled that of Thorburn. In consequence the British Vice-Consul Mr. Scott went to Soochow, but enquiries made at the Military Police Headquarters revealed that no foreigner was concerned in the affair which took place on the night of June 2 and that no foreigner had been arrested and detained. Therefore the real facts of the case are not known for the time being and enquiries are being continued.

as attach.

MYSTERY STILL DEEPER

No Further News of Mr. John Thorburn

QUINSAN INQUIRIES

How the Soldiers Were Shot

SPECIAL TO THE N.C.D.N.

"No foreigner was involved at all in the shooting affair which occurred near Weiting Station on the night of June 1 when two gendarmes were fatally wounded," said Col. Tsing Tsung-ying, Commissioner of Public Safety, at Quinsan, when interviewed yesterday by a representative of the "North-China Daily News" who paid a special visit to that place to make inquiries into the disappearance of Mr. John Thorburn, a 19-year old British subject, who has been reported missing for nearly two weeks.

Asked whether he had received any reports of foreigners being found dead or wandering about in the vicinity of Quinsan, or whether any foreigner had been arrested, Col. Tsing emphatically stated that he had received no reports to this effect and that no foreigner had been arrested. Had any such discoveries been made, he certainly would have been informed and he would have telegraphed at once to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because he had received orders from the Waichiaopu and the Kiangsu Provincial Government to submit, without delay a report if any missing foreigner were found because he understood that the Waichiaopu had received an inquiry from the British authorities concerning the whereabouts of Mr. Thorburn.

A Futile Search

One of the purposes of the 'North-China Daily News" representative in pursuing the inquiry was to find a certain English message. It is reported to have been written on the platform of the Quinsan Station. No such message was found, though every nook and corner of the station and points within a large radius of the station were carefully searched.

Accordingly, the investigator went to the headquarters of the First Battalion of the First Regiment of the Railway Zone Gendarmerie, to which the dead soldier belonged, and interviewed the officer in charge. This officer stated that he had read a report of the shooting affair which appeared in the Chinese press (a translation of which subsequently appeared in this journal) but it was incorrect in many respects. In the first place, only three soldiers were involved in the affair. In the second place, no foreigner was involved and no foreigner was arrested, though the report stated that a Russian had fired the shots and that he had been taken into custody.

Chinese in Long Gowns

"I personally interviewed the wounded soldiers before they were brought to Shanghai, where they later died on June 7 and 12 respectively, and took their statements. Both these men, together with the third soldier who was in their company, stated that the shooting was done by a Chinese who wore a long gown: there were eight or nine in all. The soldier who is still alive is absolutely sure of this fact that he is equally certain that it was not a foreigner who fired the shots," the officer told the "North-China Daily News."

"The three gendarmes started out from Quinsan to patrol the railway zone and reached a spot about three or four li to the east of Weiting Station when the shooting occurred on the night of June 1. As soon as they noticed the eight or nine men wearing long gowns, they felt sure that they were tufei, (bandits) so they called upon them to halt and submit to search. Instead of doing so, one of the gang drew a pistol and opened fire, bringing down two of the gendarmes.

Swallowed Up in Darkness

The man started to chase them but it so happened that the Nanking night express was passing at full speed and the gangsters had crossed the line before the train arrived. When the train had passed, the soldier searched for the gang but found that all of them had disappeared in a most mysterious manner in the darkness. Accordingly, no arrests were made."

This statement was confirmed by Col. Tsing, the Commissioner of Public Safety, and the gendarme who gave chase.

1067

THE CHINA PRESS, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1931

Rail Man Says Thorburn Seen In Hands Of Police

British Consular Officials Continue To Look Into Possibility That Lost Youth Is In Custody Of Soochow Gendarmerie

Until a late hour last night the actual whereabouts of Mr. John Thorburn, 19 year old Briton who mysteriously disappeared from June 1 from his father's house, 315 Rue Bourgeat, and has since not been seen, could not be discovered. British consular authorities here, however, continue to work on the theory that the youth is in the custody of Chinese military in Soochow though the latter have disclaimed the rumor that they have a foreigner in their hands.

Mr. A. L. Scott, British vice-consul in charge of Chinese affairs, is still in Soochow investigating the truth of the report about the foreigner in custody. His investigations, according to Mr. A. D. Blackburn, acting British consul of the local British Consulate-General in Shanghai, are bearing more and more fruit [illegible] that the rumor is true [illegible] that the foreigner in the hands of the Soochow officials is actually Thorburn.

Soldiers Questioned

Young Thorburn, it will be recalled, was supposed to have joined a boating party at Henli on the day previous to his disappearance but instead of so doing, he stayed in Shanghai, playing tennis on the Race Course during the afternoon and returning to his home to sleep that night. It is the general belief that Thorburn caught a late train for Quinsan, intending to walk the short distance from that station to Henli, on the following night. He was not seen at all during June 2 by friends in Shanghai.

Thorburn's disappearance was at first believed to have been connected with the strange shooting affray which occurred at a point near the Quinsan Station on the night of June 2. Four Chinese soldiers were doing patrolling duty on the railroad line when a man, whom they believed to have been a foreigner, suddenly appeared before them. When this man was ordered to halt he, it is claimed, pulled out a revolver and opened fire mortally wounding two of the soldiers, Shen Lih-seng and Leo Kuo-tsai, both of whom have since died, before making a getaway. The wounded men were brought to Shanghai and conveyed to St. Luke's Hospital where they passed away.

Arrested Foreigner Seen

According to the British Consular authorities here, the station master at Quinsan has acknowledged having seen a foreign youth, dressed as a Sea Scout, in the custody of Chinese military.

The station master's description of the foreigner corresponds with young Thorburn. The missing youth was a keen Sea Scout and it is quite likely that he was in uniform for he, presumably, was on his way to join a boating party.

Incident Soon Cleared

Mr. Blackburn informed a representative of The China Press yesterday afternoon that the British Consulate here had received word from Mr. Scott to the effect that the Chinese military officials in Soochow have informed him that there had been no foreigner involved with the shooting affray on the railroad lines on the night of June 2. This is a very important factor in the case as it clears young Thorburn of a particularly sticky predicament.

1066

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury. Saturday, June 13, 1931

Thorburn Mystery Inquiry Launched

Disappearance Of Local Youth Linked With Shooting Affray

Official inquiry into the mysterious disappearance on June 1 of Mr. John Thorburn, 18 year old British employee of Dodge & Seymour, Ltd., and the strange shooting affray on the night of June 2 between Quinsan and Weiting on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway has been in progress for several days British consular authorities here revealed today.

Mr. A. L. Scott, British vice-consul has visited Soochow twice during the past few days in an effort to clear up the mystery of Mr Thorburn's disappearance, which has been linked with the shooting. Military and civil authorities, however, deny having arrested a foreigner in connection with the Quinsan affray.

Two Soldiers Killed

The shooting, which resulted in the death of two Chinese soldiers mentioned as Quinsan took place after dusk, according to testimony introduced at the inquest here this morning over Shen Lih-seng, one of the dead soldiers. He and three others were patrolling the road between Quinsan when a foreigner appeared, who when ordered to halt, is said to have opened fire. Shen and a comrade named Lee Kuo-tsai were mortally wounded. The former died last week while Shen passed away yesterday at the St. Luke's Hospital here.

Reports received from Soochow after the shooting stated that a foreigner had been arrested and the British consular officials immediately took steps to investigate. The foreigner, the reports stated, was either Russian or British.

Bullet Stamped "Case"

At the inquest over Shen Lih-seng today, a verdict of death due to bullet wounds was returned by Procurator Quo, sitting as coroner. The only clue that might lead to the identity of the man believed responsible for the shooting was a bullet, taken from the body of the dead man, bearing the stamp "C&K."

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1931

THORBURN MYSTERY GROWS DEEPER

Soochow Witnesses Say They Saw Foreigner Arrested

SILENCE MAINTAINED BY MILITARY

A conspiracy of silence appears to have been adopted by Chinese military officials at Soochow over the disappearance of John Thorburn, the British youth residing with his father Mr. W. J. Hay Thorburn, at 515 Rue Bourgeat, who left his home on June 1 under somewhat unusual circumstances and has not returned since.

"The Shanghai Times" inquiries started several days ago following receipt of information to the effect that a youth answering to the description of Thorburn had been seen in custody of Chinese soldiers at Soochow, far from being disproved by recent investigations point more strongly, in fact, to the correctness of the original report.

In support of this, Mr. A. L. [illegible], British Vice-Consul, has been in Soochow since Tuesday, June 9, investigating similar reports and is still at Soochow it was learned yesterday.

Thorburn, investigation shows, left his home at Rue Bourgeat on June 1 without giving any information as to his intended movements. Nothing was heard of or from him for several days, although the police had been notified of his prolonged absence.

Some indication of where to look for him was received from a report to the effect that a young foreigner had been seen walking along the railway track between Shanghai and Nanking, in the direction of the [illegible] place.

Report, emanating from [illegible] sources, endeavoured, by [illegible] and circumstantial [illegible] to link up the missing [illegible] peculiar shooting incident [illegible] occurred near Quinshan [illegible] four Chinese gendarmes were [illegible] upon by a foreigner when an attempt was made by them to search and detain him. One of the gendarmes died shortly afterwards. The other four wounded were transferred to St. Luke's hospital, Shanghai. One of them died of his wound a day or two after arrival. The other died on Thursday evening.

Nanking Also Silent

Whether or not there is any connection between Thorburn's disappearance and the shooting incident is immaterial beside the question of Thorburn's whereabouts at the present time. Also, that Thorburn is alleged to have taken a pistol, an S.V.C. weapon, away with him when he left home on June 1, is also a secondary point for consideration pending discovery of the youth himself.

The father of the missing youth is understood to have paid a personal visit to Nanking to consult the military authorities to see if

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they had any information which might lead to the discovery of his son. They had none.

Likewise, Soochow military officials expressed complete ignorance when questioned concerning young Thorburn. No one answering to his description had been arrested by them, they stated. They are understood to have gone so far as to deny having any foreigner at all!

Independent inquiry has revealed several important points which would tend to contradict the assertions of the Soochow military.

Foreigner Seen

In the first place, there is indisputable evidence that a foreigner was seen marching through the streets of Soochow last week in the custody of Chinese gendarmes. Careful questioning at Soochow has also revealed that the foreigner seen marching off in the direction of military headquarters was wearing a pair of trousers of an unusual type which answer the decription of a pair belonging to young Thorburn which are missing from the wardrobe.

Furthermore, in support of the evidence of the arrest of a foreigner by Chinese gendarmes at about the time in question, there is the statement by someone travelling by train from Quinsan to Soochow that a foreigner was removed from the train by Chinese gendarmes at Soochow.

Extract from the Afternoon Translation

of June 10, 1931

Shooting of Railway Police by Foreigner

The Shun Pao publishes the following correspondence from Soochow : -

In connection with the recent killing of one and wounding of two of a group of military police while patrolling the railway line between Quinsan and Tsing Neu and the subsequent arrest and detention of a foreigner in the Military Police Headquarters at Soochow, Mr. "Sa Ko To" (Scott) the British Vice-Consul in Shanghai, yesterday (June 9) went to Soochow and enquired of the Hsien Government whether the arrested person was a British subject or not, as an Englishman named "Wei Lin Tai Ba" ( ), age 19, was missing from Shanghai. He was informed by Magistrate Wong that he was awaiting instructions from the Military Police Headquarters. Magistrate Wong promised to notify Mr. "Sa Ko To" as soon as instructions were rewieved. The British Vice-Consul returned to Shanghai the same night.

File with Hay Thorburn Rile Kcas

D.S. (Crime)

Information

P. Gwens

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ALLEGED CRIME BY FOREIGNER

Shooting Affair on the Nanking Railway

HELD BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

A foreigner, stated to be of Russian nationality, was arrested by Chinese soldiers on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, between Quinsan and Weiting stations, on Tuesday morning on a charge of being concerned in the murder of two Chinese gendarmes in the vicinity of Weiting Station on the previous night. The foreigner, who was found in possession of two pistols, is being detained by the Quinsan military authorities pending investigations.

According to a statement made by the military authorities to the Chinese press, the two gendarmes who are alleged to have been murdered by the foreigner were detailed with 14 others, to Quinsan on patrol duty between that station and Weiting. Four left the train at Weiting to patrol the railway zone. At about 10 p.m., when these four men reached a spot about a mile from Weiting, they noticed a tall man walking along the track. They shouted to him and called upon him to stop and submit to search. The man is said to have obeyed and raised his arms but, when two of the gendarmes approached him, they noticed that he was a foreigner. As they attempted to search him, the man, who is said to have held a pistol in his hand, suddenly opened fire on them badly injuring them. The other two soldiers, who had remained standing some distance away, ran up to investigate but the foreigner escaped in the darkness.

Foreigner Arrested

A search was made but, as the foreigner could not be found, the wounded men were taken to the Weiting Station and brought to Shanghai but they died after being admitted to hospital here.

On Tuesday morning, says the report, soldiers stationed on the railway arrested a suspicious-looking foreigner between Weiting and Quinsan and found him in possession of two pistols. He was questioned as to the shooting on the previous night but denied all knowledge of it. He was taken to Quinsan where he is still being detained pending investigations.